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Cold Turkey

Despite cold, balloons fly at Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade

The Fleck, Bjorn, Jojo, and Hugg balloons make their way down New York's Sixth Avenue during the 92nd annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, Thursday, Nov. 22, 2018, in New York.

Associated Press.
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Trump's rails against court, migrants in call to troops

By JILL COLVIN, Associated Press

PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — President Donald Trump used a Thanksgiving Day call to troops deployed overseas to pat himself on the back and air grievances about the courts, trade and migrants heading to the U.S.-Mexico border. Trump's call, made from his opulent private Mar-a-Lago club, struck an unusually political tone as he spoke with members of all five branches of the military to wish them happy holidays. "It's a disgrace," Trump said of judges who have blocked his attempts to overhaul U.S. immigration law, as he linked his efforts to secure the border with military missions overseas. Trump later threatened to close the U.S. border with Mexico for an undisclosed period of time if his administration determines Mexico has lost "control" on its side. The call was a uniquely Trump blend of boasting, peppered questions and off-the-cuff observations as his comments veered from venting about slights

to praising troops — "You really are our heroes," he said — as club waiters worked to set Thanksgiving

the presidency, erasing the traditional divisions between domestic policy and military matters and efforts

exceptionally well on his watch. "I hope that you'll take solace in knowing that all of

order and claimed he'd already used it earlier this week. "Two days ago, we closed the border. We actually just closed it, said nobody's coming in because it was just out of control." By no means did he seal the border with Mexico. Officials did shut down one port of entry, San Ysidro, in California, for several hours early Monday morning to bolster security because of concerns about a potential influx of migrant caravan members. They closed northbound lanes into the U.S. and reopened most of them before the morning rush.

Trump's border threat came days after a federal judge put the administration's attempts to overhaul asylum rules on hold. Courts have also blocked several versions of the president's travel ban as well as his attempt to end a program that allows young immigrants brought to the country illegally as children to live and work in the country.

Trump probably could close the entire southern border by order, at least temporarily, invoking national security powers. Doing so could cause extraordinary damage to bilateral relations as well as to cross-border commerce between the U.S. and Mexico, its third largest trading partner. It would not necessarily stop migrants from coming; Trump would have to contend with the same asylum laws already vexing his efforts to harden the border. Among other subjects the president touched on in his question-and-answer session with the press:

—Trump disputed reports the CIA has concluded that Saudi Arabia's crown prince was responsible for journalist Jamal Khashoggi's killing. "The CIA points it both ways," said Trump. "Maybe he did, maybe he didn't."

—Asked who should be held responsible for killing, Trump responded that, "Maybe the world should be held accountable 'cause the world is a vicious place." □



President Donald Trump meets with members of the U.S. Coast Guard stationed at United States Coast Guard Station Lake Worth Inlet in Riviera Beach, Fla., on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, Nov. 22, 2018.

Associated Press.

ing dinner tables on the outdoor terrace behind him. And it was yet another show of how Trump has dramatically transformed

to keep the troops clear of politics.

"You probably see over the news what's happening on our southern border," Trump told one Air Force brigadier general stationed at Bagram Airfield in Afghanistan, adding: "I don't have to even ask you. I know what you want to do, you want to make sure that you know who we're letting in."

Trump also continued to rail against the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, which he said has become "a big thorn in our side."

"It's a terrible thing," he said, when judges "tell you how to protect your border. It's a disgrace."

Later, Trump asked a U.S. Coast Guard commander about trade, which he noted was "a very big subject" for him personally.

"We've been taken advantage of for many, many years by bad trade deals," Trump told the commander, who sheepishly replied that, "We don't see any issues in terms of trade right now."

And throughout, Trump was sure to congratulate himself, telling the officers that the country is doing

the American families you hold so close to your heart are all doing well," he said. "The nation's doing well economically, better than anybody in the world." He later told reporters "nobody's done more for the military than me."

Indeed, asked what he was thankful for this Thanksgiving, Trump cited his "great family," as well as himself.

"I made a tremendous difference in this country," he said. "This country is so much stronger now than it was when I took office and you wouldn't believe it and when you see it, we've gotten so much stronger people don't even believe it." But Trump continued to warn about the situation on the southern border as he took questions from reporters, pointing to the caravans of Central American migrants that have been making their way toward the U.S. and warning that, "If we find that it gets to a level where we lose control or people are going to start getting hurt, we're going to close entry into the country for a period of time until we get it under control."

He said he had the authority to do so by executive

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Despite cold, balloons fly at Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade

From Front

By **STEPHEN R. GROVES and MICHAEL R. SISAK,**
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Frigid weather and blustery winds didn't chill the enthusiasm at the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, where spectators bundled up in blankets and sleeping bags and the giant character balloons flew lower than usual.

SpongeBob, Charlie Brown, the Grinch and other big balloons were cleared for takeoff just before Thursday's parade, although some floated at noticeably lower-than-usual heights above the people holding their tethers, like the outstretched hand of the "Diary of a Wimpy Kid" balloon that appeared to hit some of his handlers on their wool

cap-covered heads.

The 21 degrees (minus 6 Celsius) at the start made it one of the coldest Thanksgivings in the city in decades, and the temperature warmed only a few degrees as the parade rolled along.

Officials had been ready to order the 16 helium-filled balloons to a lower altitude or removed entirely if sustained winds exceeded 23 mph (37 kph) and gusts exceeded 34 mph (54 kph). There have been mishaps and injuries in the past when gusts blew them off course.

Bystanders refused to let the cold put a damper on watching the parade, breaking out blankets and sleeping bags to watch the balloons, bands and floats go by.

Tony Stout had camped out with his extended family since 2 a.m. to make sure they got a good view of his son, who was in the parade with the Ohio State University marching band.

"Ohhh, I'm freezing and numb, but excited," said Stout, who had traveled from Columbus, Ohio.

Dylan Mahoney, who has come to the parade every year for the past dozen years, said he stayed warm by layering, including several pairs of socks.

"It's one of the coldest," he said, but "we've watched in the rain before."

He said he loves the tradition of attending the parade, driving from Leonia, New Jersey, in the early hours to see the bands and balloons and racing for a good spot.

Entertainers including Diana Ross, John Legend, Martina McBride and the Muppets from "Sesame Street" performed in the frigid cold.

Macy's later apologized for "technical difficulties" after fans ripped into singer Rita Ora for what they saw as awkward lip-syncing.

The British artist appeared out of sync with the vocals that viewers heard during parts of her televised performance of "Let You Love Me," and the episode sparked a flurry of online commentary.

Macy's apologized via Twitter, saying "several recording artists experienced technical difficulties that negatively impacted their performance" and were beyond the performers' control.

Ora tweeted thanks to Macy's for "the honesty."

In another moment that got attention, a performance from the Broadway musical "The Prom" included a kiss between two female cast members. The producers told Entertainment Weekly it was the parade's "first LGBTQ kiss."

Representatives for Macy's and broadcaster NBCUniversal didn't respond to inquiries. Thursday was one of New York City's coldest Thanksgivings, with National Weather Service data showing the temperature peaked at 27 degrees (minus 2 Celsius). The coldest on record was in 1871, when the warmest it got was 22 degrees (minus 5 Celsius).

The Macy's parade didn't start until 1924. □

Artificial intelligence improves highway safety in Las Vegas

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Artificial intelligence is helping improve safety along a stretch of Las Vegas' busiest highway.

The Nevada Highway Patrol says a yearlong partnership between public safety agencies and a startup technology firm resulted in a 17 percent reduction in crashes along a portion of northbound Interstate 15 just west of the Las Vegas Strip. The Las Vegas Review-Journal reports Waycare, a provider of artificial intelligence-based mobility products and services for smart cities, helped lead the crash prevention pilot program. They hope to use



In this Feb. 12, 2008, file photo, traffic moves along Interstate 15 in Las Vegas. Artificial intelligence is helping improve safety along a stretch of Las Vegas' busiest highways.

Associated Press.

it in other parts of the Las Vegas Valley, including a stretch of U.S. 95 between

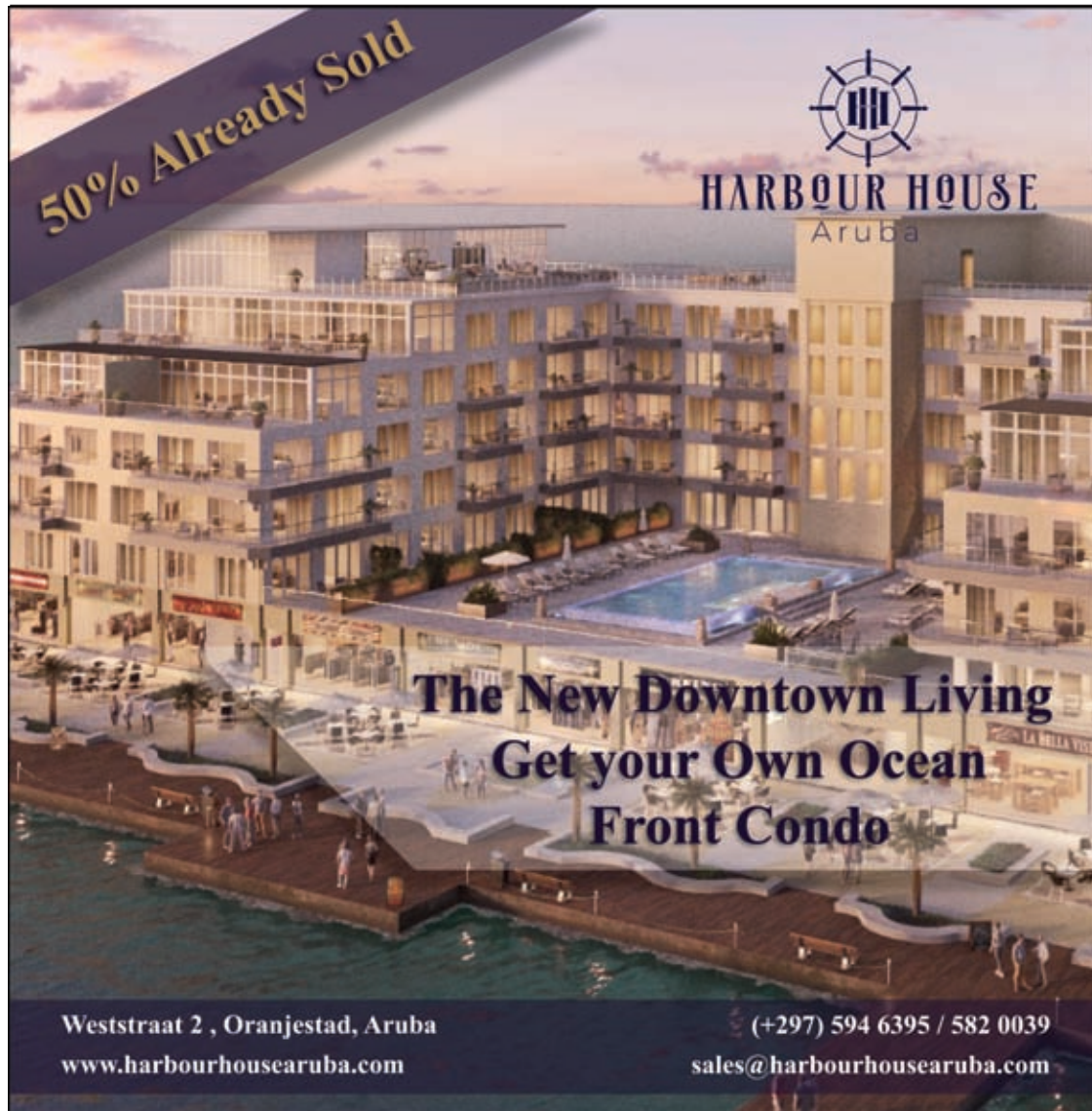
I-15 and the Rainbow Boulevard curve. The program uses in-vehicle information,

cameras, sensors and other traffic data to develop prediction models to reduce congestion. The Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada, the Nevada Department of Transportation and the Nevada Highway Patrol teamed up for the pilot program with Waycare. The Israeli startup already carried out a similar program in Tel Aviv, and it started a crash prevention program last year in Tampa, Florida. The Nevada Highway Patrol says the results from the initial project on I-15 in Las Vegas between Charleston Boulevard and Russell Road came without any

additional resources from state or local agencies.

"Groundbreaking partnerships like this enable Southern Nevada to continue to lead the way in leveraging advanced technologies to dramatically improve traffic safety and efficiency," RTC general manager Tina Quigley said.

"These latest statistics coupled with the fact that we are identifying accidents up to 12 minutes faster with the Waycare platform helps translate what public and private partnerships can do and that AI is working to modernize and create a better transportation system for all." □



In this Nov. 10, 2018, photo volunteers hold a "Save The Lighthouse" rally near the East Point Lighthouse in Maurice River Township, N.J.

Associated Press.

Rising sea levels threatening historic lighthouses

By **WAYNE PARRY, Associated Press**

MAURICE RIVER TOWNSHIP, N.J. (AP) — Rising seas and erosion are threatening lighthouses around the U.S. and the world. Volunteers and cash-strapped governments are doing what they can, but the level of concern, like the water, is rising.

New Jersey's East Point Lighthouse has been lighting up Delaware Bay for the better part of two centuries. But those same waters that the lighthouse helped illuminate might bring about its demise. With even a moderate-term fix likely to cost \$3 million or more, New Jersey officials are considering what to do to save the lighthouse. Nancy Patterson, president of the Maurice River Historical Society, says something needs to be done now. State and local governments routinely shore up the perimeter of the lighthouse property with 3,000-pound (1360-kilogram) sand bags and hastily bulldozed

earthen walls. During normal conditions, the bay is about 40 yards (37 meters) from the lighthouse; aerial photos from 1940 show at least four times as much beach between the lighthouse and the bay as there is now.

And during storms, the surf pounds against an earthen wall just 10 yards (9 meters) from the lighthouse's front steps.

"This lighthouse is in incredible danger; it's getting worse and worse and worse," Patterson said. "The water is right there, often within feet of the lighthouse."

She recently led a save-the-lighthouse rally to call attention to its plight and push the state Department of Environmental Protection to do something to save it before it falls into the bay.

It's a threat affecting lighthouses around the country and the world, including those in low-lying areas being inundated by water, as well as those on bluffs

or cliffs being eroded by storms and rising sea levels. "It's happening faster than anybody had predicted," said Jeff Gales, executive director of the U.S. Lighthouse Society in Hansville, Washington.

While some of the lighthouses continue to be relied upon for navigation, others have been supplanted more modern technology, and are treasured more for historical and tourism purposes.

Climate change hastened by manmade greenhouse gases is not only melting polar ice, adding to sea levels, but the warmer waters are expanding and some land formations sinking.

Globally, sea levels have been rising over the past century, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the rate has increased in recent decades. In New Jersey, seas have risen by 1.3 feet (0.4 meters) over the past 100 years, said Benjamin Horton, a Rutgers

University professor and leading expert on climate change and sea level rise. That is a faster pace than for the past 2,000 years combined, he said.

Horton and other Rutgers researchers project that by 2050, seas off New Jersey will rise by an additional 1.4 feet (0.4 meters).

Tim Harrison is the editor of Lighthouse Digest, a Maine-based publication that maintains a "Doomsday List" of 53 lighthouses around the U.S. deemed to be in danger of being lost due to storms, erosion or other causes.

Rising seas have already forced the relocation of several lighthouses.

In 1999, the National Park Service moved the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse in Buxton, North Carolina, 2,900 feet inland, at a cost of \$11.8 million. In 1993, the Southeast Lighthouse on Block Island, Rhode Island, was moved 300 feet inland. In 2014 the Cape San Blas Lighthouse was moved from the edge of a storm-prone peninsula on Florida's Gulf Coast to a park in Port St. Joe. A year later, the Gay Head Lighthouse on Massachusetts' Martha's Vineyard was moved 129 feet back from an eroding cliff.

Others were not so lucky. The Galveston Jetty Lighthouse in Texas and the Sabine Bank Lighthouse in Louisiana were lost to storms or rising seas, and the Kauho-la Point Lighthouse on Hawaii's Big Island was demolished after erosion nearby was deemed too severe to save it, Harrison said.

Lighthouses around the

country considered to be in danger from rising seas include the Sand Island Lighthouse at the mouth of Mobile Bay in Alabama, the Morris Island Lighthouse near Charleston, South Carolina, and the New Point Comfort Lighthouse in Virginia.

Around the world, encroaching seas are drawing nearer to the Orfordness Lighthouse in Suffolk, England; the Troubridge Island Lighthouse in South Australia; and the Kiipsaar Lighthouse in Estonia. In 2010, the Half Moon Caye Lighthouse in Belize was destroyed by a storm.

There are few easy answers, financially or scientifically. The East Point Lighthouse is already on the highest spit of land around, which is only a few inches above sea level, so moving it is not an option.

Nor is constantly dumping and plowing more sand in front of it.

Patterson wants some sort of bulkhead or barrier erected between the bay and the lighthouse to blunt the force of the waves.

Larry Hajna, a spokesman for the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, acknowledges the lighthouse has been "very vulnerable to storms due to erosion" for years.

And he realizes the sandbags the state and local governments keep plopping on the shoreline are a stop-gap measure at best. But while affirming the state's interest in saving the lighthouse, he notes that moving or protecting it with rock-filled cages could cost several million dollars. □

Cars separate on New York City-bound Amtrak train

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A New York City-bound Amtrak train became disabled on the night before Thanksgiving, one of the busiest travel days of the year, when two of its cars separated.

There were no reports of injuries.

Train 68, called the Adirondack, was heading from Montreal, when the train experienced what Amtrak called a "mechanical issue" just before 7:30 p.m. near Albany, New York.

Chuck Reeves, a software engineer from Troy, New York, was on his way to his parents' home on Long Island for Thanksgiving and had boarded the first car behind the locomotive in Albany.

Shortly after the train pulled away, he said, he and other passengers heard a pop and a hiss, smelled electrical burning, and felt a rush of cold air.

"Everyone started turning around," he said, only to see there was no more train behind them. The train soon slowed to a stop, and a conductor left the detached cars behind and boarded his car. Some crying children were comforted by their parents, Reeves said, but for the most part no one panicked. A state trooper soon boarded to make sure everyone was safe.

Another train was brought in to take passengers on the rest of their journey. Reeves said he opted to turn back home and have his brother drive him to his parents' home on Thursday.

The train was carrying 287 passengers and crew.

There was no word on what caused the problem. □

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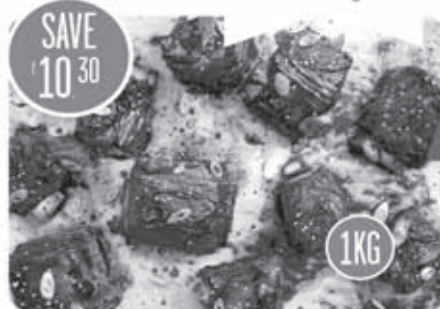
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Oldest US military survivor of Pearl Harbor dies at age 106

By **JOHN ROGERS**
JULIE WATSON

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Ray Chavez, the oldest U.S. military survivor of the Dec. 7, 1941, attack on Pearl Harbor that plunged the United States into World War II, died Wednesday. He was 106.

Chavez, who had been battling pneumonia, died in his sleep in the San Diego suburb of Poway, his daughter, Kathleen Chavez, told The Associated Press.

As recently as last May he had traveled to Washington, D.C., where he was honored on Memorial Day by President Donald Trump. The White House Tweeted a statement Wednesday saying it was saddened to hear of his passing.

"We were honored to host him at the White House earlier this year," the statement said. "Thank you for your service to our great nation, Ray!"

Daniel Martinez, chief historian for the National Park Service at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, confirmed Wednesday



In this Dec. 5, 2016, file photo, Ray Chavez, a Pearl Harbor survivor from Poway, Calif., poses for a photo as he was eating breakfast in Honolulu.

day that Chavez was the oldest survivor of the attack that killed 2,335 U.S. military personnel and 68 civilians. "I still feel a loss," Chavez said during 2016 ceremonies marking the attack's 75th anniversary. "We were all together. We were friends and brothers. I feel close to all of them."

Hours before the attack, he was aboard the minesweeper USS Condor as it patrolled the harbor's east entrance when he and others saw the periscope of a Japanese submarine. They notified a destroyer that sunk it shortly before Japanese bombers arrived to strafe the harbor.

By then Chavez, who had worked through the early morning hours, had gone to his nearby home to sleep, ordering his wife not to wake him because he had been up all night.

"It seemed like I only slept about 10 minutes when she called me and said, 'We're being attacked,' " he re-

called in 2016. "And I said, 'Who is going to attack us?'"

"She said, 'The Japanese are here, and they're attacking everything.' "

He ran back to the harbor to find it in flames.

Chavez would spend the next week there, working around the clock sifting through the destruction that had crippled the U.S. Navy's Pacific fleet.

Later he was assigned to the transport ship USS La Salle, ferrying troops, tanks and other equipment to war-torn islands across the Pacific, from Guadalcanal to Okinawa.

Although never wounded, he left the military in 1945 suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder that left him anxious and shaking.

Returning to San Diego, where he had grown up, he took a job as a landscaper and groundskeeper, attributing the outdoors, a healthy diet and a strict workout program that he continued into his early 100s with restoring his health. □

Associated Press

Police arrest MMA fighter for beating UFC fighter wife

By **AUDREY McAVOY**, **Associated Press**

HONOLULU (AP) — Honolulu police arrested mixed martial arts fighter Arnold Berdon on charges of attempted murder after he allegedly punched his wife and fellow fighter in the head, face and ribs, fracturing her eye socket.

His wife, Rachael Ostovich Berdon, filed a request for a temporary restraining order alleging he punched her on Sunday after a night out with family. She said she fell to the ground, gasped for air and escaped through a balcony. The 27-year-old said she coughed up blood and threw up several times. Her representative, Brian Butler-Au, posted on social media that Ostovich Berdon won't compete in a UFC bout against Paige VanZant scheduled for Jan. 19 because of her injuries.

Berdon, 27, was in custody Wednesday after turning himself in the day before. Police declined to make him available for comment. His attorney's name was not immediately available.

Ostovich Berdon's petition said he also hit her in May, when he repeatedly punched her thighs and left her with bruises.

A judge granted the restraining order that prohibits Berdon from approaching both Ostovich Berdon and the couple's daughter, who is about 5 years old.

Butler-Au said Ostovich Berdon was home from the hospital and will be returning for checkups on the fracture to her orbital bone. He said the family is asking for privacy while they "sort through" what's happened. □

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life for wildfire survivors****By KATHLEEN RONAYNE
Associated Press**

CHICO, Calif. (AP) — Amy Sheppard packs her belongings into a plastic garbage bag as rain drips around her, readying to move on from a field by a Walmart where thousands of evacuees had taken refuge from a deadly Northern California wildfire.

Sheppard, 38, her sister and niece, who is 1, are looking to move into a dry hotel after camping in the field for four days. They lost their home in Magalia and the jewelry-maker tears up as she thinks about what's next. "This rain is making it so hard," she said.

Rain falling Wednesday in some areas of Northern California could help crews fighting a deadly wildfire. But it could also raise the risk of flash floods, complicate efforts to recover remains and make life even more difficult for people like Sheppard who have nowhere to go.

Heavier rain is expected later in the day in the Paradise burn area, which is about 140 miles (225 kilometers) north of San Francisco, where the Camp Fire has killed at least 83 people, including two victims who were found Wednesday in burned homes. The blaze also destroyed more than 13,000 homes.

"The rain is really a double-edged sword for this fire," said Rick Carhart, a spokesman with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. He said searchers have "been able to sift through this really fine ash and when rain gets onto that really fine ash, it turns it into sort of a muddy muck and makes it a lot more difficult."

Farther south, residents

of communities charred by a Los Angeles-area fire stacked sandbags as they prepared for possible downpours that threaten to unleash runoff from hill-sides left barren by flames. Residents were mindful of a disaster that struck less than a year ago when a downpour on a fresh burn scar sent home-smashing debris flows through Montecito, killing 21 people and leaving two missing.

The 151-square-mile (391-square-kilometer) Woolsey Fire in the Los Angeles area was almost entirely contained after three people were killed and more than 1,600 structures destroyed. In Northern California, the wildfire that started two weeks ago has torched an area in Butte County about the size of Chicago — nearly 240 square miles (622 square kilometers) — and was 85 percent contained.

A spokesman for the Governor's Office of Emergency Services says state officials will start removing hazardous waste from the burn area "beginning next week." "This will take several months," Eric Lamoureux said. "That ash is still toxic." Former California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger made a surprise visit to weary firefighters on Wednesday, providing encouragement and helping serve breakfast.

"I wanted to let you know how much I appreciate all the work that you do," he told firefighters during a brief speech.

The 71-year-old actor also slammed President Donald Trump for blaming the wildfire on poor forest management. He told firefighters, "you are tough to not only fight the fires, but you

are tough to listen to all this crap."

Officials said 563 people were still unaccounted for. A spokeswoman for ANDE, the company doing rapid DNA tests on remains, said Wednesday the family members of missing people who live outside the state can give a DNA swab at their local sheriff's office to be sent to California. □



Amy Sheppard accepts banana bread from Margarita and William Bradbury as she packs up items outside her tent in a Walmart parking lot in Chico, Calif., that's been a makeshift campground for people displaced by wildfire, Wednesday morning, Nov. 21, 2018.

Associated Press

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Lebanon's economy faces stark choice: Reform or collapse

By **BASSEM MROUE**

Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Lebanon marked 75 years of independence with a military parade Thursday in Beirut, but many anxious Lebanese feel they have little to celebrate: the country's corruption-plagued economy is dangerously close to collapse and political bickering over shares in a new Cabinet is threatening to scuttle pledges worth \$11 billion by international donors.

The World Bank issued a stark warning last week, with one official saying that unless a government is formed soon to carry out badly needed reforms, "the Lebanon we know will fizzle away."

It's been more than six



Lebanese protesters chant slogans during a protest against corruption and criticizing long-serving politicians for failing to form a government, in Beirut, Lebanon, Thursday, Nov. 22, 2018.

Associated Press

months since Lebanon held its first national elections in nine years but the prime minister-designate, Saad Hariri, still hasn't formed a government to undertake the reforms necessary to unlock the donors' funds. The vote, in which the Shiite militant Hezbollah group and its allies made significant gains, did little to pull Lebanon out of a political impasse. Anger against politicians' apparent indifference, worsening public services and distress over down-spiraling finances and gloomy predictions are building up. Last Friday, heavy rains caused Beirut's sewage system to burst, turning the city's famous Mediterranean coastal avenue into a river of filthy, foul-smelling black water that engulfed motorists along the otherwise scenic route. On the same day, the military had closed a main artery for drills ahead of the Independence Day parade, paralyzing traffic for hours. Flights from Beirut's international airport were missed and a woman reportedly went into labor on the road. The army later apologized. On Thursday, Lebanese President Michel Aoun and the country's top officials watched an hour-long military parade along Beirut's waterfront as

helicopters hovered overhead. The city center was closed off for the duration of the spectacle.

As soon as the parade ended, dozens of protesters took to the streets to voice their impatience with the political stalemate. Some denounced corruption, while others ranted about electricity shortages, fraying infrastructure or increasing pollution levels. Many wore T-shirts with the inscription: "Our independence from you exploitation."

Despite a population of over 4.5 million that is among the most educated in the region, Lebanon still has a primitive infrastructure, widespread electricity and water cuts and a long-standing waste crisis that over the past few years saw trash piling in the streets for weeks at a time.

"There is no independence (to celebrate) because corruption is eating us up," said Mohammed al-Rayyes, a shop owner in Beirut's Hamra district. "The coming days are going to be very difficult."

The tiny Arab country has coped with multiple political and security crises over the past decades and also suffered from the seven-year civil war in neighboring Syria, a conflict that has occasionally spilled over the border and brought more than 1 million refugees into Lebanon, putting even more pressure on its dysfunctional infrastructure. A soaring debt of \$84 billion and unemployment believed to be around 36 percent are compounding concerns that the country will finally cave in.

"It is a shame because so much time is being wasted," Ferid Belhaj, the World Bank's vice president for the Middle East and North Africa, said during a meeting with a group of journalists last week.

For years, he said, Lebanese officials have been promising to work on solving the electricity crisis, which costs the country about \$2 billion a year and has been the main factor in accumulating Lebanon's debt. □



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2 premiers and no government: Crisis confuses Sri Lankans

By KRISHAN FRANCIS
Associated Press
COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)

— Two men each claim to be the prime minister. Lawmakers are exchanging blows in Parliament.

A former finance minister says the country is on the brink of an "economic anarchy."

Welcome to Sri Lanka, where the political crisis is getting worse by the week. The trouble started when President Maithripala Sirisena, fed up with disagreements with his prime minister over money, an alleged conspiracy plot and unresolved issues of wartime crimes against civilians, fired Ranil Wickremesinghe and his Cabinet and replaced them with a government headed by a popular former strongman, Mahinda Rajapaksa.

But lawmakers balked and twice passed a no-con-



In this Oct. 26, 2018 file photo, newly appointed Sri Lankan Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa, center, sits to talk with supporters at a Buddhist temple in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Associated Press

fidence motion. Sirisena, however, refuses to accept that his choice of prime minister has been defeated. local analyst group National Peace Council, said that the government appointed

by the president can't be called legal because Sirisena had not sought a parliamentary vote when he dismissed Wickremesinghe. "It can be called illegitimate because provisions for a confidence vote in Parliament are being blocked by the president's own party through their riotous behavior," Perera said, referring to a brawl last week that was followed by another pandemonium in the chamber when Rajapaksa loyalists refused to let the speaker conduct proceedings. Wickremesinghe says his dismissal is invalid because he still holds a majority in the 225-member Parliament.

The dismissal is also disputed because of a latest constitutional change, which lawyers say has taken away presidential powers to dismiss the prime minister. □



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ARUBA WINE & DINE

Indian island police struggle to get body of American

By **TIM SULLIVAN**
Associated Press

NEW DELHI (AP) — Indian authorities were struggling Thursday to figure out how to recover the body of an American who was killed after wading ashore on an island cut off from the modern world.

John Allen Chau was killed last week by North Sentinel islanders who apparently shot him with arrows and then buried his body on the beach, police say.

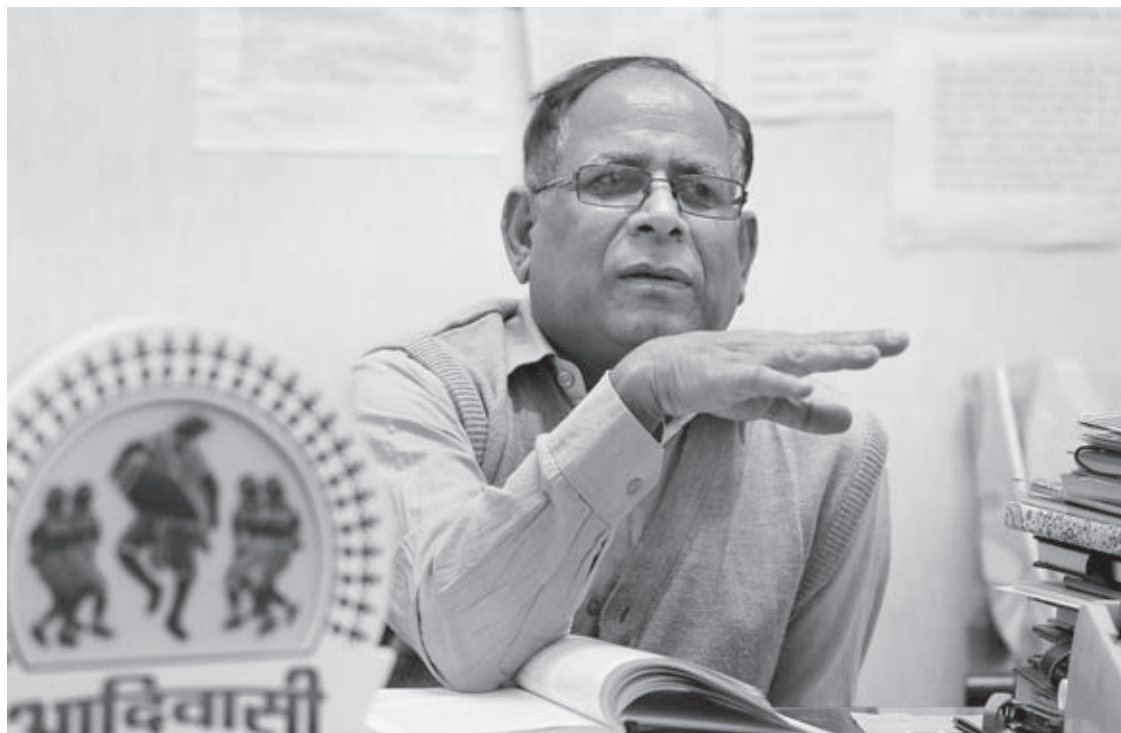
But even officials don't travel to North Sentinel, where people live as their ancestors did thousands of years ago, and where outsiders are seen with suspicion and attacked.

"It's a difficult proposition," said Dependera Pathak, director-general of police on India's Andaman and Nicobar Islands, where North Sentinel is located. "We have to see what is possible, taking utmost care of the sensitivity of the group and the legal requirements."

Police are consulting anthropologists, tribal welfare experts and scholars to figure out a way to recover the body, he said.

While visits to the island are heavily restricted, Chau paid fishermen last week to take him near North Sentinel, using a kayak to paddle to shore and bringing gifts including a football and fish.

It was "a foolish adventure," said P.C. Joshi, an anthropology professor at Delhi University who has studied the islands. "He invited that aggression."



Anthropology professor at Delhi University P.C. Joshi speaks to the Associated Press in his office in New Delhi, India, Thursday, Nov. 22, 2018.

Joshi noted that the visit not only risked Chau's life, but also the lives of islanders who have little resistance to many diseases.

"They are not immune to anything. A simple thing like flu can kill them," he said.

On his first day Chau interacted with some tribesmen - who survive by hunting, fishing and collecting wild plants - until they became angry and shot an arrow at him. The 26-year-old self-styled adventurer and Christian missionary then swam back to the fishermen's boat waiting at a safe distance.

That night, he wrote about his visit and left his notes with the fishermen. He returned to North Sentinel the next day, Nov. 16.

What happened then isn't known, but on the morn-

ing of the following day, the fishermen watched from the boat as tribesmen dragged Chau's body along the beach and buried his remains.

Pathak said seven people have been arrested for helping Chau, including five fishermen, a friend of Chau's and a local tourist guide.

Chau was apparently shot and killed by arrows, but the cause of death can't be confirmed until his body is recovered, Pathak said.

He also said the police were examining whether Chau had tried earlier to visit the isolated island.

Pathak said Chau and his accomplices planned well for last week's visit by "camouflaging the visit as fishing."

Also, Chau appeared to

be full of confidence as he wrote in his notes, "God sheltered him from coast-guard and Navy," he said. In an Instagram post, his family said it was mourning him as a "beloved son, brother, uncle and best friend to us." The family also said it forgave his killers and called for the release of those who assisted him in his quest to reach the island. "He ventured out on his own free will and his local contacts need not be persecuted for his own actions," the family said. Authorities say Chau arrived in the area on Oct. 16 and stayed on another island while he prepared to travel to North Sentinel. It was not his first time in the region: he had visited the Andaman islands in 2015 and 2016.

With help from a friend, Chau hired fishermen for \$325 to take him there on a boat, Pathak said.

After the fishermen realized Chau had been killed, they left for Port Blair, the capital of the island chain, where they broke the news to Chau's friend, who in turn notified his family, Pathak said.

Police surveyed the island by air Tuesday, and a team of police and forest department officials used a coast guard boat to travel there Wednesday. Another trip was planned Thursday.

India has a hands-off approach to the island's people. Tribespeople killed two Indian fishermen in 2006 when their boat broke loose and drifted onto the shore, but Indian media reports say officials did not investigate or prosecute anyone in the deaths.

India recently changed some of its rules on visiting isolated regions in the Andamans. While special permits are required, scholars say visits are now theoretically allowed in some parts of the Andamans where they used to be entirely forbidden, including North Sentinel. Chau had no permit, police said.

Chau had wanted ever since high school to go to North Sentinel to share Christianity with the indigenous people, said Mat Staver, founder and chairman of Covenant Journey, a program that takes college students on tours of Israel to affirm their Christian faith. Chau went through that program in 2015. □

Chinese reporter wins rare police apology for harassment

By ERIKA KINETZ

Associated Press

SHANGHAI (AP) — The young woman is panting, panicked, her thin arm pointing at four men in police uniforms who had let themselves into her hotel room near midnight.

"You cannot treat me like this," she shouts, her voice high and reeling. "You cannot barge in like this late at night, OK? I didn't do anything illegal."

The men, one carrying a pair of thin white plastic restraints, tell her they are doing a "routine inspection," according to a video of the Nov. 11 incident seen by The Associated Press.

Only there was nothing routine about this. Their target was Zhou Chen, an environmental reporter for Caixin, one of China's most respected business media groups. She was on a reporting trip to Quanzhou, a city in southeastern China's Fujian province, to investigate a petrochemical leak that sickened more than 50 people.

Journalists in China are reg-



An online post by the Quanzhou police detailing the investigation and an apology for an incident where police personnel let themselves into the hotel room of Zhou Chen, an environmental reporter for Caixin, seen on computer screens in Beijing, China, Thursday, Nov. 22, 2018.

Associated Press

ularly tailed and harassed by local authorities, but few Chinese reporters publicly discuss the details. Zhou broke the silence about her harassment in an article published this week, prompting an outcry on social media and a rare apol-

ogy from the police. Reporters Without Borders ranks China 176 out of 180 in its World Press Freedom Index and says more than 50 journalists and bloggers are detained "in conditions that pose a threat to their lives." China's ruling Com-

munist Party is eager to suppress information that might contribute to social instability, while local officials often try to interfere with reporting on sensitive topics.

On Nov. 4, around 7 tons of the petroleum derivative

C9 leaked into the sea off Quanzhou.

Dozens of residents fell sick, and scores of fish died. Local residents complained that officials mishandled the cleanup and tried to cover up the extent of the damage.

Zhou went to investigate. On Nov. 11, after a long day of reporting, she was in bed, in her pajamas, looking at her phone when she heard a keycard unlocking the door of her hotel room. It was 11:30 p.m.

"You barged in like this when I'm not even properly dressed," Zhou shouts in the video. "Could you please leave immediately?"

The men demanded her ID. They did a cursory search of the room, flipping the curtains back and forth, and warned her to watch out for her safety.

Zhou's account of her terrifying night was published Monday in Caixin Weekly, part of the Caixin Media group.

The police search capped a day of bullying, according to her article. □

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A 'hospital' for statues patches up Argentine monuments

By **ALMUDENA CALATRAVA**
Associated Press

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — A headless Anibal Troilo, one of the tango's greatest performers, rests on a seat holding his concertina. Beside him, tango singer Alberto Castillo smiles, though he lacks arms.

The Argentine musical icons are in a hospital of a sort, where the 2,200 statues and monuments that dot Buenos Aires' parks and plazas are brought when they have suffered vandalism or decay.

City officials say about 20 pieces arrive each month — often dismembered, broken, sprayed with paint or stolen, either as collector's items or for scrap metal. Statues are sometimes damaged by angry protesters or toppled by people just for fun.

At the workshop, more than a dozen restorers repair



In this Nov. 6, 2018 photo, statues lay outside a hospital for statues in Buenos Aires, Argentina.
Associated Press

stone and marble, clean away graffiti and mold missing appendages.

"We'd like to have less of this and focus only on pres-

ervation of outdoor works, restorations that would be due to age, and not to damage done intentionally," said Jorge Grimaz, who

coordinates operations at the city's Monuments and Artworks shop.

The abundance of statuary and monuments, many ac-

quired in France in the 19th and 20th centuries, helps set the Argentine capital and set it apart from other Latin American cities.

Pollution and the humidity of the Argentine capital located on the banks of the Rio de la Plata, affects the sculptures.

But vandalism is by far their worst enemy.

The attacks on sculptures have increased as frustration simmers over Argentina's economic crisis.

A copy of Auguste Rodin's "The Thinker," located in the square in front of the Argentine Congress, has suffered the wrath of demonstrators who gather there to protest against politicians. The statue, cast in bronze from the original mold and signed by the French sculptor, was recently elevated on a pedestal to keep it away from the spray paint after a fence failed to safeguard it. □

Mexico president-elect promises referendum on national guard

Associated Press

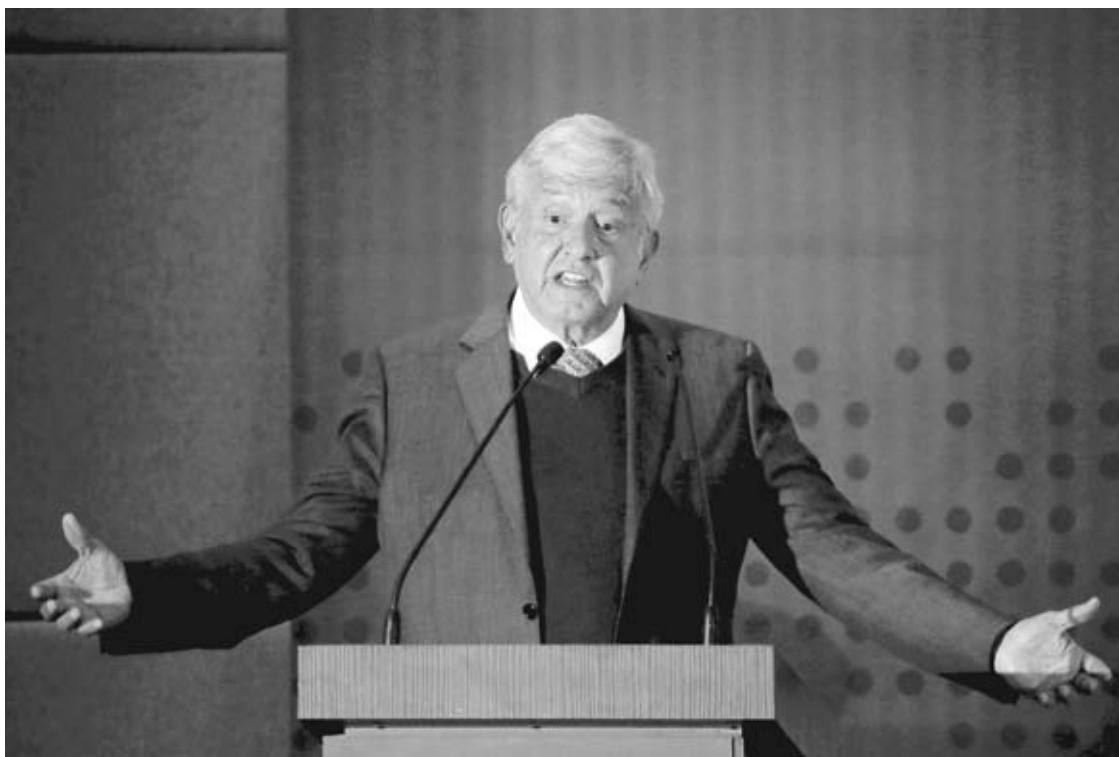
MEXICO CITY (AP) — Mexico's President-elect Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador said Wednesday he will put the question of creating a national guard to a referendum conducted by the National Electoral Institute. The proposal aimed at confronting the country's violence would require a constitutional reform, meaning that it would need congressional approval and a green light from state legislatures.

"We're going to do both things," Lopez Obrador said, referring to the referendum and constitutional reform.

The president-elect made the announcement to radio journalist Carmen Aristegui during a wide-ranging interview 10 days before he takes office.

A day prior, a coalition of civil society groups and intellectuals signed a letter rejecting the idea of a national guard under command of the military.

Mexico has faced interna-



Mexico's President-elect Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador speaks about the upcoming changes his administration will impose on national security during the national peace and security plan conference in Mexico City, Wednesday Nov. 14, 2018.

Associated Press

tional criticism for leaning heavily on the army and navy to wage the drug war. Numerous human rights violations have been blamed on the military for actions conducted in the name of security.

Lopez Obrador has been among those calling for demilitarization, but said he had not fully realized how hopelessly corrupt civilian law enforcement agencies were.

He also defended the

armed forces, saying that the military's infamous human rights violations were "on the orders received from civilian authorities" and that its leaders had good backgrounds.

Lopez Obrador said he

had looked at nearly three dozen active generals and found that some were the sons of farmworkers and mechanics. "The chiefs of the armed forces are not part of the oligarchy," he said.

The populist said he decided to create a national guard because he didn't see relying on the police alone as an option.

A national guard would include military police and some federal police.

A separate referendum is already scheduled for this weekend. That one will be conducted by a private foundation and will include questions on a number of Lopez Obrador's proposals.

One of those is related to a proposed train line on the Yucatan Peninsula. Scientists and other academics have expressed environmental fears and called for Lopez Obrador to not take the train question to the public. But Lopez Obrador has dismissed their concerns, saying they were uninformed. □

LOCAL



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ORANJESTAD –Foundation Trampolin pa Trabou, translated Trampoline to Work, makes the difference between 'hidden and seen'. "This is all about acknowledge by society that persons with a limitation count. Our clients can do a lot, you just need to open up. To them it is so much more than a job. Here we give them self-esteem, skills, happiness and a pay check. Emotionally and financially we - and hopefully you - empower. Who does not want to be part of that?" says Manager Lionel Rumnit, the motor behind the foundation, driving force by skills and heart. Rumnit also is a certified Job Coach, teaching is in his veins.

Trampolin pa Trabou is part of Foundation Sonrisa and offers a day care and teaching school for adults with limitations. "Meaning preparing the clients in this building to give them the best starting qualifications as possible to begin working. We have deaf, visually impaired, Down Syndrome, Autism and other kind of limitations, but that does not mean you cannot work," Rumnit explains. He reaches out to the private sector, as well as the government to find job opportunities; two assistants take care of the daily in-house tasks and administration and three to six trainees from EPI College plus

the cook complete the team. "We have 15 to 20 clients approximately for the full day, together with the ones that have a job we are 40 to 50, of course not all at the same time." It is a built-up process whereas clients start with a couple of days and accumulate. Rumnit: "I have more requests than I can handle, therefore we could use support in many ways, and an incentive to companies for hiring our clients would also be more than desirable."

In-House Program

Attitude, work ethic, structure and discipline are all part of the program. In the morning, they stack away their bags and start an exercise program to activate their bodies and their brains, after that several tasks begin. "This can be cleaning, helping the cook in the kitchen or organizing. All tasks are timed to teach them to work efficient and be responsible. It starts playful but on the way gets serious," says Rumnits. 40 to 50 healthy meals are prepared on a daily basis for outside clients. "It gives my people work and an income." Work and income are provided as well with the production of ginger syrup, lemonade, sauces and turmeric. "After the ginger is brought in here, we scrub and wash, chop it up and grind it by machine. The cook cooks it and we also clean and fill the bottles plus stick the etiquettes on them. It gives 2-3 clients daily work, teaching, empowerment and income." The ginger is sold in all big supermarkets.

7.000 Disabled and More

The need of companies that open up to the foundations clients is significant. "A lot of hotels and companies already cooperate, it is

not always easy but very rewarding. Social responsibility is a part of society, we must never forget." The clients usually stay home alone, do not have many friends and in most cases depend on family. Rumnit points out that there is a lack of insight and motivation of the caregivers. "Due to that the family often gets frustrated because of the non-understanding of the limitation. Plus they do not know where to turn to, often not directed by a house doctor to the right organizations." In 2010 there were 7.000 people with a limitation on Aruba, where are they, he wonders. Every month there is taking place an amputation of an arm or leg in the hospital, but we do not know about these people. Most are live isolated or hidden because of the taboo and the shame of the family.

If you feel inspired by this article, do not just turn the page but act upon it. You can help and support this wonderful foundation to jump higher every time. The foundation welcomes:

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- Visitors & Ideas



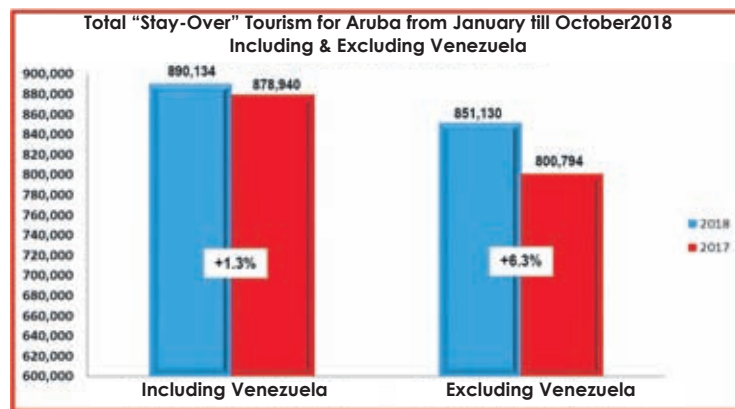
If you would like to visit the foundation, please call + (297) 582-9485 and ask for Lionel Rumnit. If you would like to donate, the bank account is Arubabank 239-7220-290 Foundation Trampolin pa Trabou, Pavia 13-E, Oranjestad. For more information visit the website: <https://www.trampolinpatrabou.com> or Facebook: Trampolinpatrabou. Thank You!

A.T.A. first 10 months of 2018: 1.3% more visitors and 11.5% higher RevPar

ORANJESTAD – Aruba welcomed a total of 890,134 'stay-over' visitors during the first 10 months of 2018. This is 1.3% (+11,194 visitors) more compared to same period of 2017. If we exclude visitors from Venezuela, you will see an increase of 6.3% (+50,336 visitors) which equals a total of 800,794 visitors to our island. These numbers indicate an increase in key markets for Aruba such as USA, Canada, Colombia, Chile and also Italy. For the month of October, Aruba received a total of 80,820 stay-over visitors, which is 0.08% (-663) less compared to same month last year. Excluding visitors from Venezuela, you will see this is 3.1% (+2,331 visitors) more which equals to 76,681 visitors for the month of October for 2018.

'Stay-over' Tourism

Aruba is being represented



in 3 different continents. Compared to October of 2017, for 2018 tourism from North America increased with 3.7% (+2,005 visitors/total 56,051 visitors) and brought 69.4% of the total for tourism to our destination. In October, USA increased with 3.9% (+1,992 visitors/total 53,158 visitors) and Canada increased with 0.5% (+13 visitors/total 2,893 visitors) compared to same month in 2017. From January to October 2018, Norte America increased and brought 653,658 visi-

tors to Aruba, which is an increase of 7.1% (+43,564 visitors).

The Latin American Continent decreased with 15.6% (-2,416 visitors/total 13,080 visitors) in which Venezuela decreased with a 42% (-2,994 visitors/total 4,139 visitors) compared to October of last year. Colombia increased with 31.8% (+790 visitors/total 3,276 visitors) and Brazil decreased with 21.4% (-301 visitors/total 1,106 visitors). There is also an increase in visitors from

Chile with 13.6% (+121 visitors/total 1,010 visitors). The Latin American Continent brought 16.2% of the total of tourism for the month of October for 2018 for our island. From January till October of 2018, Latin America brought a total of 132,688 visitors for Aruba, which equals to 20% (-33,078 visitors) less compared to same period of last year.

For what Europe concerns a decrease in tourism can be noticed of 4.4% (-380 visitors/total 8,245 visitors) less compared with the same month of last year. United Kingdom decreased with 59.1% (-1,423 visitors/total 986 visitors). As already informed earlier due to the so called 'BREXIT' in England, TUI was forced to cancel one of the charter flights from this destination to Aruba. Noticeable is that the decrease of 7,500 seats and the fall of the United Kingdom market this has been compensated with the increase from the other countries. The majority comes from the 7th additional flight per week of KLM which A.T.A. managed to confirm November of last year. Besides, TUI Netherlands increased their amount of seats to Aruba so that A.T.A. Europe can continue its contribution to increase the high quality tourism to our destination.

Other countries in Europe: Netherlands increased with 19.6% (+600 visitors/total 3,726 visitors) and Germany increased with 10.7% (+68 visitors/total 703 visitors). There is also an increase from Italy with 8% (+55 visitors/total 741 visitors). The European Continent represented 10.2% of tourism for Aruba for the month of October 2018. From January till October of 2018, Europe brought 73,690 visitors to Aruba, which is 2.4% (-1,818 visitors) less compared to same period last year.

Tourism Cruise

During October 2018, 55,056 cruise passengers visited our destination aboard a total of 22 differ-

ent cruise ships. Compared with month of October last year, cruise tourism increased with 5.3% (+2,758 visitors cruise): in October 2017 Aruba had 52,298 visitors from 25 cruises. That is 3 cruise ships more compared to last year. From January to October 2018, a total of 623,317 cruise passengers visited Aruba (an increase of 5.8% +33,931 passengers more) aboard a total of 250 different cruise ships. This is the same amount compared to 2017.

Tourism Receipts / Central Bank of Aruba

According to the Central Bank the so called 'Tourism Receipts' for 2017 contributed to 3,078.5 Million florins to our economy, which is a 6.5% increase compared to the same season in 2016.

Hotels / AHATA

According to Aruba Hotel and Tourism Association for the month of October 2018, the 'Average daily Rate' (ADR) increased with 12% compared to October 2017 – US\$ 192.52 in 2017 compared to US\$ 215.58 in 2018. From January till October 2018, the ADR increased with 12.2% which equals to US\$ 243.05. The revenue per available room, the so called RevPar increased to 3.9%– US\$ 164.29 in October 2017 to US\$ 170.66 in October 2018. The occupancy room per night (ORN) increased with 11.5% for the month of October 2018. The occupancy room per night (ORN) for the first 10 months of 2018 decreased with 0.4%.

Numbers provided by AHATA for the first 4 months of 2018 are based on 14 properties including Holiday Inn Resort and the majority of the hotels with the exception of Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort & Casino. From May 2018 the numbers are based on 13 properties excluding Holiday Inn Resort. From August 2018, the numbers are based on 15 properties including Boardwalk Hotel and Brickell Bay Beach Club. □

Travel Tips

Aeropuerto Internacional Reina Beatrix
ARUBA AIRPORT AUTHORITY N.V.

1. When checking-in, you will always need your valid passport, along with your ticket, e-ticket receipt or e-ticket confirmation. For some countries a Visa is also required.
2. For all US-bound departures, check-in three hours before your scheduled departure time.
3. For all US-bound flights, after check-in, leave building through the exit on the left side of building; follow the signs and head towards local immigrations, main security screening, shopping area and the departure gates. Aruba Airport provides full US Pre-Clearance service.
4. For all Non US departures, check-in may vary between airlines and destinations; always consult your airline for more information. Being at the airport 3 hours before your departure flight is always safe.
5. For all Non US flights, after check-in, leave building through the exit on the right side of building; follow the signs and head towards Local immigrations, main security screening, shopping area and the departure gates.
6. If traveling with a carry-on, there are restrictions on liquids, gels and aerosols you can carry in your carry-on luggage. Always check with your airline on limitations.
7. Always check the weight limit of your baggage; excess weight may result in penalty fees.
8. Always label your bags and suitcases with your name, address and phone number.
9. Always leave all carry-on items unlocked while passing through screening points to not cause delays if these need to be inspected.
10. Avoid wearing big belt buckles, clothing with metal buttons, lots of jewelry etc. when traveling. If you have these on, remove all metal items and place these in a tray for screening. It is advisable to put all metal items in your carry-on luggage until you clear security. This will help speed up the process.
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13. Avoid packing foods and beverages in your check-in baggage. When traveling to the US, you have to comply with the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. More information <https://www.usda.gov/>.
14. If traveling with medication, please pack these in your carry-on luggage in their original packaging.
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SPORTS



Detroit Lions defensive back DeShawn Shead knocks the ball away from Chicago Bears tight end Trey Burton (80) for a fumble during the first half of an NFL football game, Thursday, Nov. 22, 2018, in Detroit.

Associated Press

Chase Daniel fills in, leads Bears to 23-16 win over Lions

By LARRY LAGE
AP Sports Writer

DETROIT (AP) — Chase Daniel outplayed Matthew Stafford, proving an NFL journeyman can beat one of the highest-paid players in the league.

Daniel threw a career-high two touchdowns to keep the Chicago Bears rolling with a 23-16 win over the Detroit Lions on Thursday, filling in very well for injured quarterback Mitchell Trubisky.

"You don't know when these opportunities will come," the 32-year-old Daniel said after making the third start of his career and first in nearly four years. "You just have to make the most of them."

He did. Daniel finished 27 of 37 for 230 yards, setting career highs in each category. He threw a go-ahead, 10-yard touchdown pass to Taquan Mizzell in the second quarter and a 14-yard pass to Tarik Cohen in the fourth to give Chicago the lead again at 16-13.

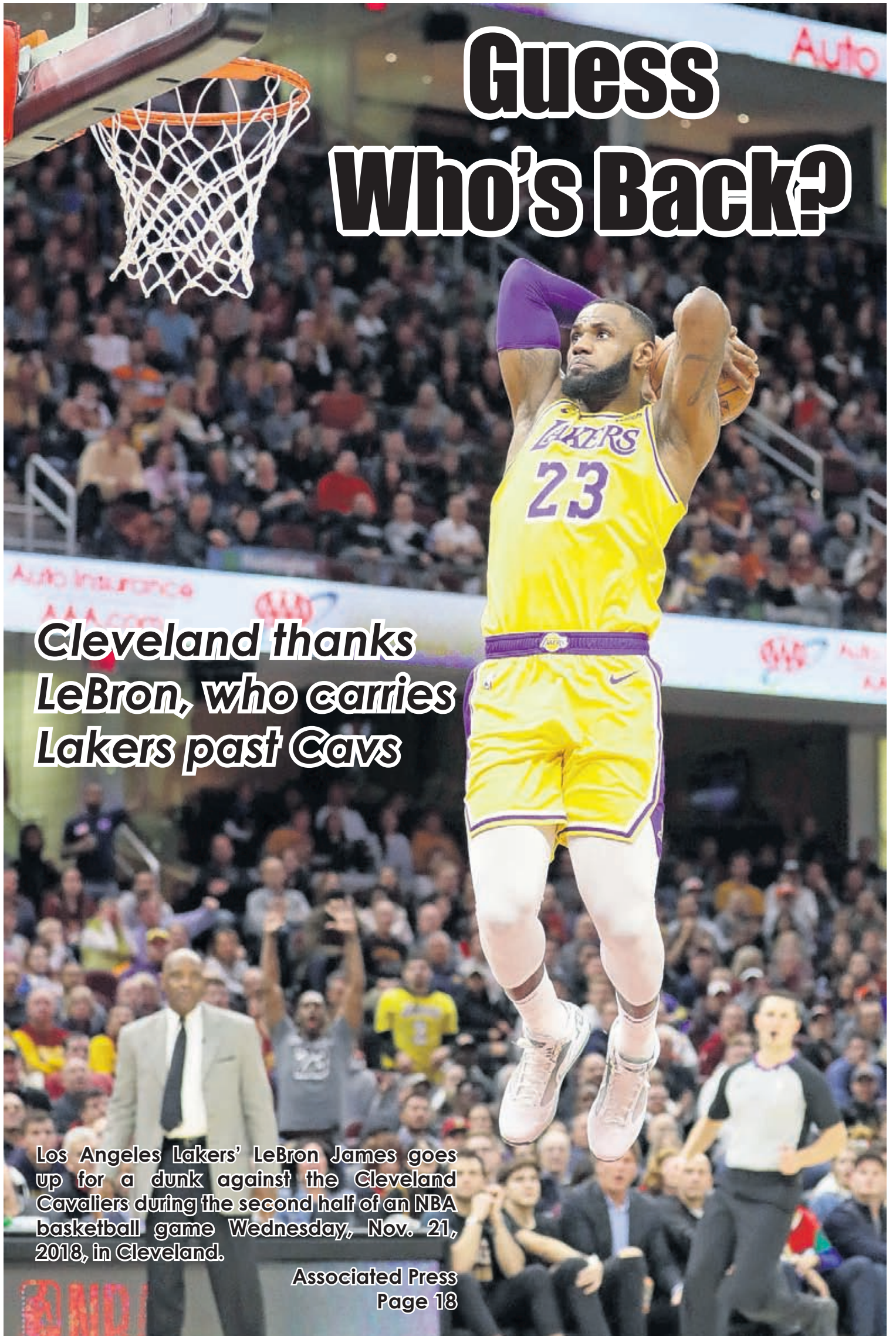
Continued on Page 19

Guess Who's Back?

Cleveland thanks LeBron, who carries Lakers past Cavs

Los Angeles Lakers' LeBron James goes up for a dunk against the Cleveland Cavaliers during the second half of an NBA basketball game Wednesday, Nov. 21, 2018, in Cleveland.

Associated Press
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ROAD TO THE OCTAGON

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NBA Capsules

By The Associated Press

CLEVELAND (AP) — LeBron James felt only love at home.

Making his first trip back to Cleveland since leaving for the second time as a free agent, James was welcomed like a hero Wednesday night and rallied the Los Angeles Lakers to a 109-105 victory over the Cavaliers, who played an inspired game against their former teammate but couldn't stop him when it mattered most.

James finished with 32 points, 14 rebounds and seven assists. He also scored or assisted on 11 straight points to help the Lakers overcome a 99-91 deficit in the fourth quarter. The Cavs had a chance to tie late, but Kyle Korver missed a wide-open 3-pointer with 17 seconds left, and Kentavious Caldwell-Pope made four free throws in the final 15 to seal it.

The NBA-worst Cavs didn't roll over against James and played one of their best games this season. They seemed in control up 99-91 before James, as he did some many times for Cleveland. Jordan Clarkson had 20 points for Cleveland.

THUNDER 123, WARRIORS 95 OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Russell Westbrook recorded his first triple-double of the season as Oklahoma City defeated Golden State in a game in which Thunder rookie Hamidou Diallo was carted off on a stretcher with 7:17 left with an apparent left leg injury.

Diallo's left leg was stabilized as he was wheeled

away to applause from the Oracle Arena crowd. Diallo was credited for rebounding Jonas Jerebko's missed layup when they both went down hard.

Westbrook began 1 for 6, then hit stride, finishing with 11 points, 13 assists, 11 rebounds. It was his second game back since missing five with a sprained left ankle, then another when he welcomed twin daughters Saturday night.

Paul George had 25 points, nine rebounds and five assists and Steven Adams contributed 20 points and 11 rebounds as the Thunder sent the two-time defending NBA champions to their first four-game skid in nearly six years.

Kevin Durant and Klay Thompson scored 27 points apiece with Durant grabbing a season-best 14 rebounds for the Warriors, who were again playing without All-Star starters Stephen Curry and Draymond Green, as well as key reserve Alfonzo McKinnie.

ROCKETS 126, PISTONS 124 HOUSTON (AP) — James Harden scored a season-high 43 points, Clint Capela added 27 and Houston held off Detroit for its fifth straight victory.

Houston has won eight of its last 10 after winning just one of its first six.

Blake Griffin led the Pistons with 37 points and 11 rebounds Andre Drummond added 20 points with 11 rebounds for the Pistons.

The Rockets led by 14 with about five minutes left, but Griffin made five 3-pointers that helped Detroit cut the lead to four points



Los Angeles Lakers' LeBron James, right, drives to the basket past Cleveland Cavaliers' David Nwaba during the first half of an NBA basketball game Wednesday, Nov. 21, 2018, in Cleveland. Associated Press

with about 90 seconds left. Houston struggled to contain Griffin late after defensive stopper P.J. Tucker was ejected in the third quarter after he received two technical fouls for arguing with officials.

76ERS 121, PELICANS 120 PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Joel Embiid had 31 points and 19 rebounds and Philadelphia beat New Orleans after Anthony Davis missed the third of three free throws with 2.5 seconds left.

The 76ers are 10-0 at home. They looked in control, up nine points with just under 2 1/2 minutes to play, before a late surge by the Pelicans.

Embiid fouled Davis on a 3-point attempt, and Davis made the first two free throws before the third one went in and out. Davis grabbed the rebound, but his wild attempt at a winning shot was off the mark.

Davis finished with 12 points and 16 rebounds in a matchup between two of the NBA's top big men with Embiid.

KNICKS 117, CELTICS 109 BOSTON (AP) — Trey Burke scored 29 points, Tim Hardaway Jr. had 21 and New York beat Boston to snap a six-game losing streak. Noah Vonleh had 16 points and Enes Kanter finished with 10 points and 10 rebounds.

New York won for the fifth time in 19 games.

Kyrie Irving led the Celtics with 22 points and 13 assists, and Marcus Morris had 21 points. Boston has lost three straight to fall to 9-9.

HORNETS 127, PACERS 109 CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Jeremy Lamb scored 21 points, NBA scoring leader Kemba Walker had 16 points and a season-high 11 assists and Charlotte beat Indiana.

Walker scored 103 points in his previous two games, including 60 against Philadelphia on Saturday night. But Walker only attempted 10 shots, instead taking advantage of double teams to find teammates for open looks. Charlotte shot 62 percent from 3-point range, making a season-high 18 of 29 shots from beyond the arc.

Bojan Bogdanovic had 20 points for Indiana.

BUCKS 143, TRAIL BLAZERS 100

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Giannis Antetokounmpo matched his season high with 33 points and finished an assist short of a triple-double in three quarters to help Milwaukee rout Portland.

Antetokounmpo added 16 rebounds and nine assists in 30 minutes. CJ McCollum and Damian Lillard each had 22 points for the Trail Blazers. □

Bears vs. Lions

Continued from Page 17

It was quite a performance for Daniel, a player who has been used sparingly since the former Missouri star entered the league in 2010. He barely played for New Orleans, Kansas City, Philadelphia and Chicago, but gained respect from coaches and players for his preparation.

"Everyone in this locker room knew what he was going to do, and he didn't let us down," Mizzell said. "People forget how long he's been in the NFL and how much talent he has. They talk about the number of games he's started, but the people that practice with him every day knew that he was going to give us a chance to win this game."

And unlike Stafford, Daniel didn't make any costly mistakes.

Stafford was 28 of 38 for 236 yards with two interceptions late in the fourth, dooming Detroit's chances to win. The Lions drafted Stafford No. 1 overall in 2009 and gave him a \$135 million, five-year extension last year. The NFC North-leading Bears (8-3) sealed their fifth straight victory with Kyle Fuller's interception in the end zone with 1:07 left. Chicago broke a 16-16 tie on Eddie Jackson's 41-yard pick-6 with six minutes remaining. The safety stepped in front of a pass in the flat intended for tight end Michael Roberts, taking advantage of the fact that Stafford didn't look at another target as he dropped back.

"Got to see (Jackson) a little better than I did," Stafford said.

Jackson, a 2017 fourth-round pick, has turned two of his four interceptions into scores this season and has five total touchdowns in his career.

"He's had an unbelievable season so far, one that I don't know that I've seen," Chicago coach Matt Nagy said. Jackson said simply picking off passes is not enough for his team, which has scored five times off interceptions this season.

"We are always thinking about putting points on the board," he said. "It is about attacking."

The Lions drove to the Bears 11 on their last possession, but couldn't score because Stafford's pass to Roberts was picked off by Fuller.

Detroit (4-7) has lost four of five, plummeting to last place in the division.

"We're not playing good football," running back LeGarrette Blount said.

The Lions did start relatively well, becoming the first team to lead Chicago in a month when Blount ran for his first of two touchdowns early in the second quarter. Blount had a season-high 88 yards rushing.

The Bears, though, were able to come back and go ahead thanks to a mistake-free quarterback and their defense that leads the NFL with 29 takeaways, including 20 interceptions.

"Our defense stepped up on the last two drives with takeaways and that's why they're the best in the league," Daniel said.

FITTING FUN

The Bears came up with some creative ways to celebrate two touchdowns. Cohen went down to his side just beyond the end zone, putting his hands under his head as if he was taking a nap like many Americans do on Thanksgiving. After Fuller's interception, Prince Amukamara held the football as if it was a microphone and his teammates played the role of backup dancers and fans in a nod to Motown. "It's a fun time," Nagy said. "That's who we are right now. Guys are wanting to outdance each other."

INJURY REPORT

Bears: RB Benny Cunningham (ankle) left the game in the first half. Amukamara was evaluated on the sideline by the team's medical staff in the second half and returned.

Trubisky was inactive after being listed as doubtful with a shoulder injury. Nagy said it is a short-term injury, but he wouldn't say when the No. 2 pick overall from the 2017 draft will return.



Chicago Bears quarterback Chase Daniel throws during the first half of an NFL football game against the Detroit Lions, Thursday, Nov. 22, 2018, in Detroit.

Associated Press

"It's a day-to-day thing with him," Nagy said.

Lions: Rookie RB Kerryon Johnson (knee) and WR Marvin Jones (knee) were

inactive with injuries. C Graham Glasgow left the game briefly with an injury in the fourth quarter.

UP NEXT

Bears: Visit New York Giants (3-7) on Dec. 2, giving Chicago a long break.

Lions: Host Los Angeles Rams (10-1) on Dec. 2. □



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Avalanche get 3 power-play goals to rout Kings 7-3

By **JOE REEDY**
AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Nathan MacKinnon and the Colorado Avalanche power play have found another gear during the past week. The Avalanche scored three goals with the man advantage for the second time in four games and dominated the Los Angeles Kings 7-3 on Wednesday night.

"One of those things that when the power play works, when it's clicking like that, it feels good and obviously can win you games, which it did tonight," said Gabriel Landeskog, who was one of nine players who got an assist.

Colorado has gone 8 of 11 on the power play during



Colorado Avalanche defenseman Nikita Zadorov, left, of Russia, shoots and scores as Los Angeles Kings center Jeff Carter defends during the third period of an NHL hockey game Wednesday, Nov. 21, 2018, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

the four-game span. That has propelled them to the

top of the league with a 32.9 percent conversion rate, and the 23 goals are tied with Tampa Bay.

"The execution has been there," Colorado coach Jared Bednar said. "Our guys are hungry to score on the power play. We have a lot of talent on both units. They are being crisp with their passes and in tune." Los Angeles allowed three power-play goals for the second time in five games and has killed only 11 of 19 penalties over that span.

"It's pretty much always the same story. We lost the special teams battle, and when you lose that, you don't win many games," Kings coach Willie Desjardins said.

MacKinnon scored one of the power-play goals and has scored on special teams in back-to-back games as the Avalanche have won three of four. Vladislav Kamenev and Colin Wilson also scored on the power play, and Patrik Nemeth, Tyson Barrie, Nikita Zadorov and Matt Calvert scored at even strength.

Alexander Kerfoot had three assists, and Mikko Rantanen remained the league's scoring leader with two assists to increase his total to 34 points. Tyler Jost and Carl Soderberg both had two assists while MacKinnon and Kamenev had multipoint games.

"It brings a lot of confi-

dence when you score that many goals. We just dominated pretty much the whole game," said Colorado goaltender Semyon Varlamov, who made 33 saves.

Kyle Clifford scored for Los Angeles while Matt Luff and Austin Wagner each had a goal and an assist. Cal Petersen allowed six goals on 31 shots before leaving early in the third and Peter Budaj allowed one goal on three shots.

"I don't know what to say what happened," Kings captain Anze Kopitar said. "I mean there's no emotion, no energy, you know nothing and it's unacceptable."

Kamenev and Clifford exchanged first-period goals, and the Avalanche retook the lead 50 seconds after Clifford's equalizer. Landeskog fed MacKinnon with a pinpoint pass from behind the net seconds into a power play, the first of six straight goals for Colorado.

Nemeth extended the lead with a 57-foot wrist shot, Wilson netted his power-play goal, and Barrie and Zadorov chased Peterson with goals less than two minutes apart in the third. Calvert redirected Barrie's pass past Budaj before Luff scored on a one-timer and Wagner got his first NHL goal.

NOTES: Barrie has six-game point streak. ... Los Angeles C Adrian Kempe suffered a lower-body injury during the first period and did not return. ... D Dion Phaneuf, who played in his 1,000th NHL game on Monday night in St. Louis, was honored before the game. ... Rantanen has been fined \$2,000 by the NHL for diving/embellishment. It is the second time Rantanen has been cited for embellishment this season, which is what triggered the fine. The embellishment penalty happened during the second period of a Nov. 14 game against Boston. ... Los Angeles acquired forward Pavel Jenys from Minnesota in exchange for defenseman Stephan Falkovsky. □

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Boxing gets big new platforms even as HBO exits sport

By TIM DAHLBERG

AP Boxing Writer

Dmitry Bivol knew where he wanted to go in his boxing career — straight to the top of one of the HBO cards he used to watch replays of while growing up in Russia. Now Bivol is a light heavyweight champion — and on Saturday night he'll finally be an HBO headliner. He meets former champion Jean Pascal in Atlantic City as the featured bout of HBO's World Championship Boxing series.

The fight is big for Bivol, but the occasion for boxing fans is bittersweet. After 45 years, HBO is pulling the plug on its premium boxing coverage with its last prime-time boxing card. First, though, Bivol gets his shot to shine.

"It was my dream to do this," Bivol said. "We had a couple of offers to fight on another channel, another platform. But I took this chance to realize my dream." HBO — which began in the boxing business with George Foreman's knockout of Joe Frazier in 1973 — says it is leaving boxing because research shows the sport doesn't increase subscriptions to the premium network. Boxing fans need not worry, though, because plenty of others are entering the mix. There's a seismic shift in boxing, which for years relied on HBO and Showtime for top fights, and pay-per-view for the biggest fights. HBO may be leaving, but other networks and platforms are rushing to fill the gap — and then some.

That includes longtime rival Showtime, which is looking for ways to expand its boxing offerings.

"We know it drives business, we know it attracts ratings," said Stephen Espinoza,



In this Saturday, March 3, 2018 file photo, Dmitry Bivol, of Russia, looks on against Sullivan Barrera, of Cuba, during their WBA light heavyweight title boxing match in New York.

Associated Press

za, president of Showtime Sports. "We have a long history in the sport and believe in the sport. If anything we're becoming more active and looking for more fights."

Indeed, the demand for live programming is prompting a lot of broadcasters to take a look at boxing once again. And they're making plans to show fights on everything from free over-the-air television to subscription streaming apps.

Superstar middleweight Canelo Alvarez, who had been a big attraction for HBO, signed a deal last month to fight exclusively on the streaming service DAZN through 2023. Though all details weren't revealed, the contract is believed to be an 11-fight deal worth a minimum of \$365 million for Alvarez, whose last fight with Gennady Golovkin was televised on HBO pay-per-view.

Instead of paying \$84.95 for one pay-per-view fight, fans can buy DAZN for a monthly fee of \$9.99. The

service has also locked up Anthony Joshua, the big British heavyweight champion, along with a number of other fighters from Golden Boy Promotions and Joshua's British promoter, Matchroom Sport.

"This is huge for boxing, huge for Canelo and huge for Golden Boy," Golden Boy promoter Oscar De La Hoya said when the deal was announced last month. "Golden Boy is at the forefront of something very monumental for the sport of boxing."

Here's a look at some of the ways boxing will be presented — and sold — in the upcoming months:

SHOWTIME: The premium cable network was Floyd Mayweather Jr.'s television partner for the biggest grossing fights of his career and, unlike HBO, is aggressively pursuing top fights. One of those takes place Dec. 1 when heavyweight titlist Deontay Wilder defends his crown against former champion Tyson Fury, while Manny Pacquiao

returns in January to fight Adrien Broner. Both will be pay-per-view events.

ESPN: The biggest sports network is so bullish on boxing it tore up a four-year deal with Top Rank signed last year and replaced it with a new seven-year pact. ESPN agreed to televise 54 live boxing events a year in addition to other boxing-related programming. Some of the fights will be on ESPN, building on the success of its Saturday night fight series, while others will be on the ESPN+ streaming app that costs \$4.99 a month.

FOX: Fox agreed last month to a four-year multi-platform deal with Premier Boxing Champions that will feature 10 "marquee fight nights" annually in prime time on the Fox network, with 12 more cards to air on Fox Sports 1 and Fox Deportes each year. The network recently announced it will also hold its first boxing pay-per-view, with Mikey Garcia meeting Errol Spence Jr. next March 16 from

AT&T Stadium in Texas.

DAZN: The streaming service, which launched in the U.S. in September, inked its first deal with Matchroom Sport, which promotes Joshua and other top British fighters. It upped the ante with the Alvarez signing, with his first fight Dec. 15 against Rocky Fielding. DAZN will also be televising a weeknight baseball cut-in show under a recently announced \$100 million a year deal with Major League Baseball.

NBC: The network is expected to announce a deal with promoter Main Events to broadcast fights both on the main network and the NBC sports network.

The explosion of new deals means boxing will be available in more places and more ways than ever before. Some of it will be on free TV, though the new streaming models will cost monthly fees and some of the biggest fights will still be on pay-per-view.

Boxing fans can look forward to many more hours of their favorite sport on TV, though some of the bigger fights may be more difficult to make because fighters are tied to different networks or platforms. There's also the risk that there will be so much televised boxing that the fights will look like filler material, though Espinoza believes there is room for everyone at the table.

"I think it's good for the health of the sport to have multiple different networks and platforms to be on," Espinoza said.

So far the fighters themselves seem to agree with that. Bivol certainly does, as he looks forward to the bidding for his talents after he headlines the final HBO card. □

Chardy to open for France against Croatia in Davis Cup final

By **SAMUEL PETREQUIN**
AP Sports Writer

LILLE, France (AP) — With no player standing out as a clear leader, France captain Yannick Noah chose Jeremy Chardy ahead of Lucas Pouille for the opening match of the Davis Cup final against Croatia.

The 40th-ranked Chardy, in the team only after Richard Gasquet withdrew injured, will lead defending champion France against Borna Coric on indoor clay at Pierre Mauroy Stadium on Friday.

Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, who's missed most of the year through injury and dropped to 259th in the rankings, will play Marin Cilic, Croatia's top player, in the second singles.

Pouille sealed France's victory over Belgium in last year's final and was widely expected to be playing again.

Noah explained after the draw on Thursday, "I have the feeling that in Davis Cup the one who attacks generally wins. And Jeremy



In this Friday, Jan. 19, 2018 file photo, France's Jo-Wilfried Tsonga reaches for a forehand to Australia's Nick Kyrgios during their third round match at the Australian Open tennis championships in Melbourne, Australia.

Associated Press

is a terrific attacking player."

Although he's in his first Davis Cup final, Chardy has won all three of his previous rubbers on indoor clay, and has a 2-1 record against Coric.

"I did not feel I'm the favorite," the 12th-ranked Coric said. "It's 50-50. I've lost twice against Chardy. The last time on clay."

It's the second consecutive year Noah has taken a gamble in the final. Last

year, he fielded an inexperienced pair in doubles and was rewarded by a victory that put France one point away from the title.

"It's never easy to make choices," Noah said. "This one was very difficult,

and subtle. The strength in this team is that we have three players capable of playing in singles."

Noah took advantage of a new rule this year increasing the size of teams from four to five players, giving captains more leeway in selection. He said Pouille, who was born close to Lille, will be ready to play on Sunday if needed.

"Honestly, I was not surprised," Croatia captain Zeljko Krajan said of Noah's nominations. "I know Yannick can sometimes pull a joker out of his pocket and I thought Chardy could be his joker this weekend."

Tsonga appears to be set up for a thrashing from Cilic.

Cilic qualified for the eight-man ATP Finals this month, while Tsonga returned to competitive tennis only in September after a seven-month absence due to a knee injury.

But Noah said he has been impressed by Tsonga's form during France's training camp. □

England, South Korea, Australia tied for lead at World Cup

By **DENNIS PASSA**
AP Sports Writer

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — World Cup or Ryder Cup: Put Ian Poulter into a team event and he never seems to disappoint.

Poulter's approach to less than a foot helped set up one of England's six birdies on the back nine Thursday to give him and Tyrrell Hatton a share of the lead with South Korea and Australia after the first round of fourballs at the World Cup of Golf. Cameron Smith made a 10-foot birdie putt on the 18th to ensure he and Australia teammate Marc Leishman were in a tie atop the leaderboard with South Korea's Byeong Hun An and Si Woo Kim, all with 10-under 62s at Metropolitan.

On Friday, the format switches to foursomes, or alternate shot, and again for the final round.

"This tournament's won and lost on Friday and Sunday," Poulter said. "Foursomes is

the day when you can take yourself out of the tournament pretty quickly. In fourballs you're always going to make birdies and hopefully you don't make any mistakes."

Poulter has picked up 15

career points in Ryder Cup events for Europe over the United States. He had two in Europe's win in Paris in late September — one with Rory McIlroy in foursomes (he also lost with McIlroy in foursomes) and a singles

victory over Dustin Johnson. He was happy with the way he and Hatton combined for the fourballs on Thursday.

"We dovetailed nicely, when one was out of position, the other one was in

position and that's exactly what you have to do."

Leishman said he and Smith, who will play in the next-to-last group Friday with Malaysia, need to avoid any early mistakes

"If you get off to an average start in foursomes, things can start going the wrong way pretty quickly," Leishman said.

An said he and Kim combined well to keep South Korea atop the leaderboard. "I think we saved each other pretty good," An said. "When he was struggling, I made some birdies, and when I was out (of the hole) he made some good par saves." Three teams were tied for fourth, one stroke behind — Belgium (Thomas Pieters and Thomas Detry), Malaysia (Gavin Green and Ben Leong) and Soren Kjeldsen and Thorbjorn Olesen, who won the title for Denmark by four strokes two years ago at nearby Kingston Heath. □



Byeong Hun An of South Korea plays from the first fairway during the Australian Open Golf tournament in Sydney, Thursday, Nov. 15, 2018.

Associated Press

Verstappen's recent form bodes well for 2019 F1 championship

By JEROME PUGMIRE

AP Sports Writer

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates (AP) —

The way Max Verstappen has driven recently offers encouragement of a more open Formula One title race next year.

Verstappen has been in typically daredevil form, with some overtaking moves of the highest class, and the Red Bull driver is aiming to sign off the season in style at this weekend's Abu Dhabi Grand Prix.

F1 needs him to carry over his form into 2019, too.

Because each year since 2014, the championship contest has been between Lewis Hamilton and one other driver: his former Mercedes teammate Nico Rosberg and more recently Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel. Although two of those championships went down to the last race — Hamilton won in '14 and Rosberg in '16 — it was always a two-way contest. This year and last, Hamilton beat Vettel into second place, with everyone else lagging behind.

Given that Vettel's title wins with Red Bull from 2011-13 were overwhelming victories, there has not been a wider contest with multiple



Red Bull driver Max Verstappen, of Netherlands, looks out from inside his car during the second free practice at the Interlagos race track in Sao Paulo, Brazil, Friday, Nov. 9, 2018.

Associated Press

drivers since 2010, when several fought for the title heading into the season-ending desert race under floodlights at Abu Dhabi. Vettel won that dramatic race for his first F1 title.

But Verstappen has finished this season so strongly he has surpassed Vettel and even matched Hamilton, which bodes well for 2019.

Over the past four races, Verstappen has had four podium finishes including — a win in Mexico — for 76

points compared with 77 for Hamilton in the same span. But the tally would have been 83-70 in Verstappen's favor if not for a reckless attacking move by French driver Esteban Ocon in the latter stages of the Brazilian GP two weeks ago.

Although he was already lapped and had no points to fight for, Ocon stubbornly refused to let race leader Verstappen past him and they tangled on the track, sending Verstappen spin-

ning back to second and pushing Hamilton to first. It led to a heated incident after the race, where an irate Verstappen squared up to a grinning Ocon and shoved him three times in the chest before pointing an angry finger at him as he eventually walked away.

Verstappen's actions drew criticism from some observers, but they also highlighted the 21-year-old Dutchman's fiery will to win. Despite his young age he

already has five GP wins to his name, including two this season.

Hamilton's Mercedes teammate, Valtteri Bottas, has not won a race this season despite having a quicker and considerably more consistent car.

It fuels the view that Verstappen, in a Ferrari or a Mercedes, would already be a serious title contender now.

He is fifth in the standings, but could overtake Bottas and move up a spot at this weekend's Abu Dhabi GP. Verstappen is also more than 60 points clear of his Red Bull teammate Daniel Ricciardo, the senior driver, although the margin is blurred by the fact both have been undone at times this season by engine problems.

By contrast, Hamilton has finished every race except for Austria in July, and Bottas has finished all but two, underlining the more reliable Mercedes.

The complex engine problems ultimately forced Red Bull to split with Renault as its partner and choose Honda from 2019. Yet there is no little irony in that switch now, considering how strong Verstappen has been in recent races when his engine has held up. □

Scolari nears redemption at home with 2nd Brazilian title

By MAURICIO SAVARESE

AP Sports Writer

SAO PAULO (AP) — Four years ago, then-Gremio coach Luiz Felipe Scolari was humiliated by his once-loving Palmeiras fans during a Brazilian league match.

They chanted "7-1! 7-1! 7-1!" during their 2-1 victory at Pacaembu Stadium, a reference to the hammering Big Phil took as Brazil coach in the 2014 World Cup semifinals against Germany five months earlier.

It didn't matter that Scolari had given the Sao Paulo club its only Copa Libertadores title in 1999. Or that he was the mastermind when Palmeiras won the 2012 Brazilian Cup unbeaten with one of their worst teams in recent history. The



In this Nov. 21, 2018 photo, Luiz Felipe Scolari, coach of Brazil's Palmeiras, gestures during a Brasileirao championship soccer match against America Mineiro in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Associated Press

home humiliation with Brazil was too big of a stain to be erased so quickly.

Fast forward four years and once again the coach of Palmeiras, Scolari could win

his first major title at home since the historic embarrassment against the Germans at the Mineirao Stadium. With a victory on Sunday at Vasco da Gama,

one of the worst teams in the Brazilian league, Scolari will win his second trophy in the competition — 22 years after the first.

Few expected that when Scolari took over in July, Palmeiras was lagging in sixth place in the standings despite being the biggest spender in the country. Midfielder Lucas Lima, once courted by Barcelona, was not delivering. Former Alaves striker Deyverson was too undisciplined. The team's defense was unreliable.

But after a record 21-match unbeaten streak in the league, no one in Brazil doubts the former Chelsea manager anymore. Scolari's team now has 74 points, five ahead of Fla-

mengo, with two matches to play. "There is no use in breaking records if we are not crowned champions," Scolari said Wednesday after a 4-0 win over America. After spending three years at Chinese club Guangzhou Evergrande, the 70-year-old Scolari is once again revered as one of the best Brazilian coaches in the business. His attacking Palmeiras team is much more stylish than the stiff Brazil of four years ago and, most importantly, the 7-1 chants from opposing fans have disappeared.

Even if the title doesn't come on Sunday, Palmeiras will still have another chance at home on Dec. 2 against Vitoria, which could be relegated by then. □

European privacy search engines aim to challenge Google

By **KELVIN CHAN**
AP Business Writer

LONDON (AP) — In the battle for online privacy, Google is a U.S. Goliath facing a handful of European Davids.

The backlash over Big Tech's collection of personal data offers new hope to a number of little-known search engines that promise to protect user privacy. Sites like Britain's Mojeek, France's Qwant, Unbubble in Germany and Swisscows don't track user data, filter results or show "behavioral" ads.

These sites are growing amid the rollout of new European privacy regulations and numerous corporate data scandals, which have raised public awareness about the mountains of personal information companies stealthily gather and sell to advertisers.

Widespread suspicion in Europe about Google's stranglehold on internet searches has also helped make the continent a spawning ground for secure searching. Europe is particularly sensitive to privacy issues because spying by the Nazi-era Gestapo and the secret services in the Soviet Union is still within living memory.

"For us, it's all about citizens and citizens have the right to privacy," said Eric Leandri, chairman of Paris-based Qwant. He said that view contrasts with the mindset across the Atlan-



In this Tuesday, Nov. 13, 2018 photo, Andreas Wiebe, founder of Swiss privacy-focused search engine Swisscows, is photographed in London.

tic, where internet users are seen as consumers whose rights are dictated by the terms of their agreements with tech companies.

Traffic numbers show interest is rising. Qwant's queries tripled to 10 billion in 2017. On a monthly basis, it's getting 80 million visits while requests are growing 20 percent. Leandri says the site now accounts for 6 percent of search engine market share in France, its biggest market.

Qwant is even getting official support. Last month the French army and parliament both said they would drop Google and use Qwant as their default search engine, as part of

efforts to reclaim European "digital sovereignty."

The site doesn't use tracking cookies or profile users, allowing it to give two different users the exact same result. It has built its own index of 20 billion pages covering French, German and Italian and plans to expand it to about two dozen other languages, for which results currently come from Microsoft's Bing.

To be sure, Google's in no danger of toppling. The company based in Mountain View, California, accounts for three-quarters or more of global market share, depending on whom you ask, and rules the mobile market with its

Android operating system. Mojeek, based in Brighton, England, operates on similar principles and has so far cataloged 2 billion webpages. The company says it gets 200,000 unique visitors a month and search queries have quintupled over the past year.

Another British startup, Oscobo, does anonymous searches for U.K. users with results licensed from Yahoo/Bing. Netherlands-based Startpage anonymizes Google search results, stripping out ads and tracking.

Pat Walshe, a U.K.-based privacy consultant, has been using Startpage and Qwant for years and says

has never felt their services were inferior to Google's.

"I don't think people would go back if they started using these sites," Walshe said. They're "allowing you to have greater choice and control and should hopefully minimize the tracking," which means you'll no longer see, for example, the same ad for a pair of shoes following you around online, he said.

Walshe likes Startpage's new "anonymous view" feature, which goes a step further by letting users browse a copy of a website from its search results, not the actual site.

Germany's Unbubble is a "meta-search" site, sending encrypted queries to more than 30 other search engines. It promises neutral search results rather than ones filtered by an algorithm catering to personal biases.

Outside Europe, there's also U.S. site DuckDuckGo.

Some privacy search operators say it's equally important to help users avoid "filter bubbles," in which content is pre-selected by the likes of Google and Facebook based on previous searches and other data.

"The main idea is to provide neutral information and allow people to depend less on machine learning-based filters," said Unbubble founder Tobias Sasse. ago, said founder Andreas Wiebe, who also runs software company Hulbee. □

Unconventional Dating App, HUD, Reverts to Traditional Advertising with a Twist

Associated Press

AUCKLAND, New Zealand—In a market that is saturated with blasé content, it takes a bold move to stand out from the crowd. HUD, a female-first hook-up app, was forced to step outside the lines of conventional advertising when they were denied the right to advertise on prominent social media channels.

Unbelievably, as we near the end of 2018, the corporate giants of social media are still so conservative. Whether that be a female

nipple or a dating app that's destigmatizing the hook up culture, both are banned from major social networks. Three quarters of Instagram's users are under 34 and so are half of Facebook users. However, their policies around advertising and explicit content do not reflect their changing, more progressive audience.

With Facebook launching their own dating service, the tech giant is making it increasingly harder for smaller, start-up dating

companies to get a foot in the door.

However, market leaders such as Tinder and Bumble, through their opaque discussion about the nature of sexual relations, which inevitably takes place on the apps, are permitted to advertise through these social media channels.

Since HUD app refuses to compromise their honest and upfront acceptance about the realities of online dating, they have been forced to revert to traditional media and are

running an advertising campaign of 100 daring billboards over the entirety of LA.

Edward Chen, Founder & CEO of C & Z Tech, the company that developed HUD, discusses why dating apps need to be honest about what their users are often on the apps for.

"As stated in the name, Hook Up Dating, HUD is 100% transparent about what the app offers. This has created a community of 4 million like-minded users, that are free from the

pressures of 'finding the one'. In a market where dating apps often misled users into thinking they could find their future wife or husband, HUD offers a safe and mutual consent platform for people to explore casual dating and hook-ups," said Chen.

The swipe-free, commitment-free nature of the dating app has made HUD one of the fastest growing dating apps in the App Store, growing by around four thousand people per day. □

A holiday miracle? Stores try to cut down on long lines

By JOSEPH PISANI
ANNE D'INNOCENZIO
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Retailers will once again offer big deals and early hours to lure shoppers into their stores for the start of the holiday season. But they'll also try to get shoppers out of their stores faster than ever by minimizing the thing they hate most: long lines. Walmart, Target and other large retailers are sending workers throughout their stores to check out customers with mobile devices. And at Macy's, shoppers can scan and pay for items on their own smartphones. Retailers hope the changes will make in-store shopping less of a hassle. Long lines can irritate shoppers, who may leave the store empty handed and spend their money elsewhere, or go online.

"I'm all about quick and convenient," says Carolyn Sarpy, who paid for a toy basketball hoop on a mobile device issued to a



In this Nov. 9, 2018, file photo, Walmart associate Shanay Bishop, left, checks out customer Carolyn Sarpy on the sales floor as part of the "Check Out With Me" program at a Walmart Supercenter in Houston.

worker at a Walmart store in Houston. Sarpy says she "will turn around and walk out" of a store if she sees long lines.

Walmart says workers will stand in the busiest sections

of stores, ready to swipe customer credit cards when they are ready to pay. To make them easier to find, workers wear yellow sashes that say, "Check out with me."

The world's largest retailer first tested the service in the spring at more than 350 stores in its lawn and garden centers. It fared well, Walmart says, and expanded the program for the holi-

day season.

Retailers are trying to catch up to technology giants. Apple, for example, has let those buying iPhones, laptops and other gadgets in its stores to pay on mobile devices issued to workers. And Amazon has been rolling out cashier-less convenience stores in San Francisco, Chicago and Seattle.

Barbara Kahn, a marketing professor at the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania, says shoppers know the technology is out there for faster shopping. "That makes them even more impatient," she says. The true test of their success will be whether retailers can handle the big crowds who are expected to turn out for Black Friday weekend. The day after Thanksgiving is expected to be the busiest shopping day this year, according to retail analytics company ShopperTrak. The Saturday after Thanksgiving also ranks in the top 10. □

Associated Press

Stocks slip in Europe, Asia as US closed for holiday

By ANNABELLE LIANG
Associated Press

SINGAPORE (AP) — Global stock markets mostly fell Thursday as concerns about economic growth continued to weigh on sentiment and trading was thinned by the U.S. Thanksgiving holiday.

KEEPING SCORE: In Europe, Germany's DAX index was 0.6 percent lower at 11,182 and the CAC 40 in France dipped 0.4 percent to 4,954. Britain's FTSE 100 index lost 0.9 percent to 6,990. U.S. markets are closed for the holiday on Thursday and will be open for a half-day on Friday.

ASIA'S DAY: Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 closed 0.7 percent higher at 21,646.55 and the Hang Seng in Hong Kong added 0.2 percent to 26,019.41. South Korea's Kospi dropped 0.3 percent to 2,069.95. The Shanghai Composite shed 0.2 percent to 2,645.43. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 gained 0.9 percent to 5,691.30. Shares

fell in Taiwan and Thailand but rose in Singapore.

BREXIT TALKS: The pound rose sharply after Britain and the European Union reached a deal in principle on future relations. The deal is due to be approved by EU leaders on Sunday but still faces uncertain prospect of passing the British parliament, where many lawmakers are unhappy with the terms. The deal aims to minimize the damage to business from Brexit by agreeing to negotiate a free trade deal.

U.S. DATA: Economic figures have raised further concerns about the impact of the ongoing trade disputes. Durable goods orders in the U.S. fell 4.4 percent last month from September, the largest amount in 15 months, with commercial and military aircraft leading the decline. This could point at adverse effects of a trade dispute between the U.S. and China, who have imposed additional

tariffs on billions of dollars of each other's goods.

GROWTH CONCERNS: "Basically the same issues — higher U.S. rates, trade, tech correction and fears of its morphing into weaker global growth — are continuing to keep investors on edge," Shane Oliver, head of investment strategy and chief economist at AMP Capital, said in an interview.

ENERGY: Traders are also keeping an eye on oil prices, which fell sharply this week on the prospect of high supplies from major



An electronic board displays the Hong Kong share index outside a bank in Hong Kong, Thursday, Nov. 22, 2018.

Associated Press

producers like the U.S. and Saudi Arabia. □

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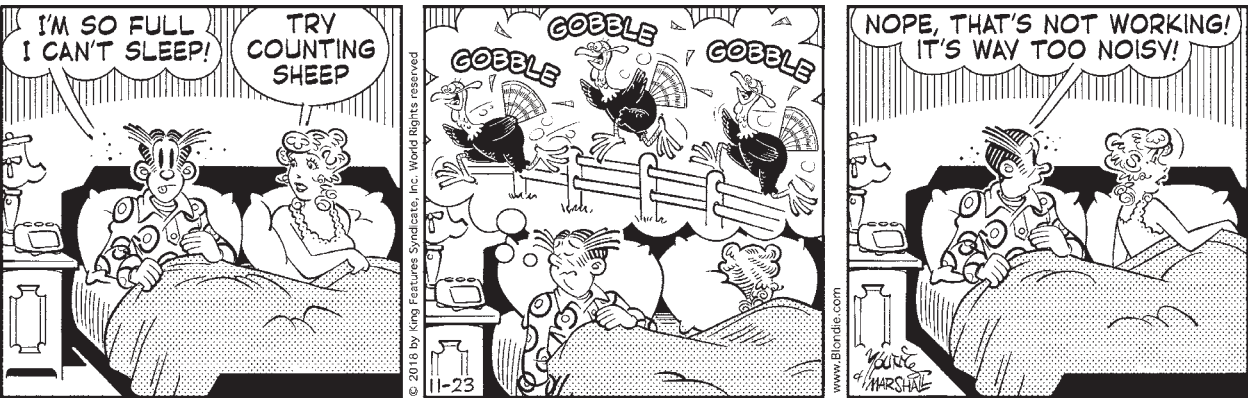
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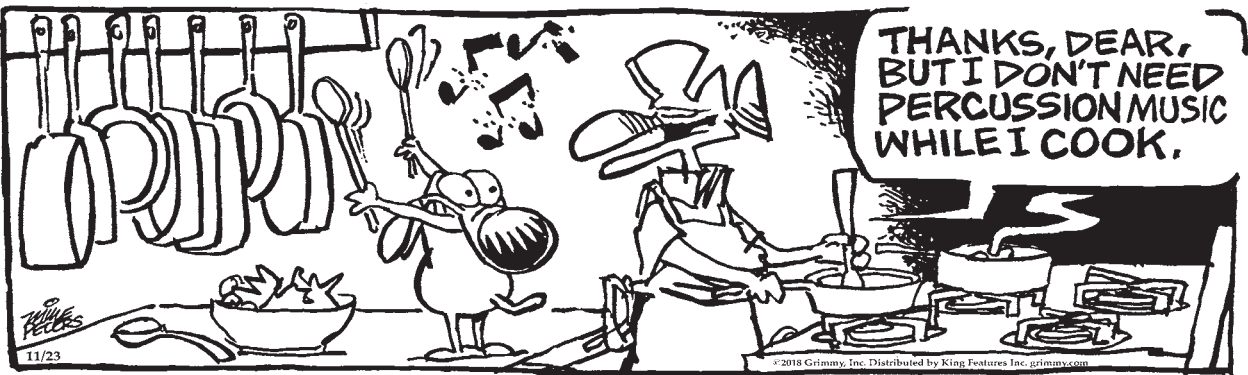
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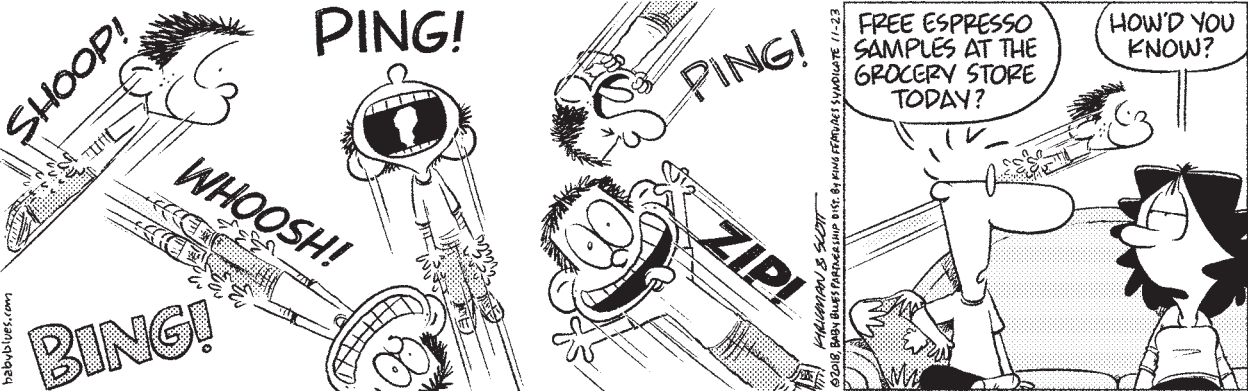
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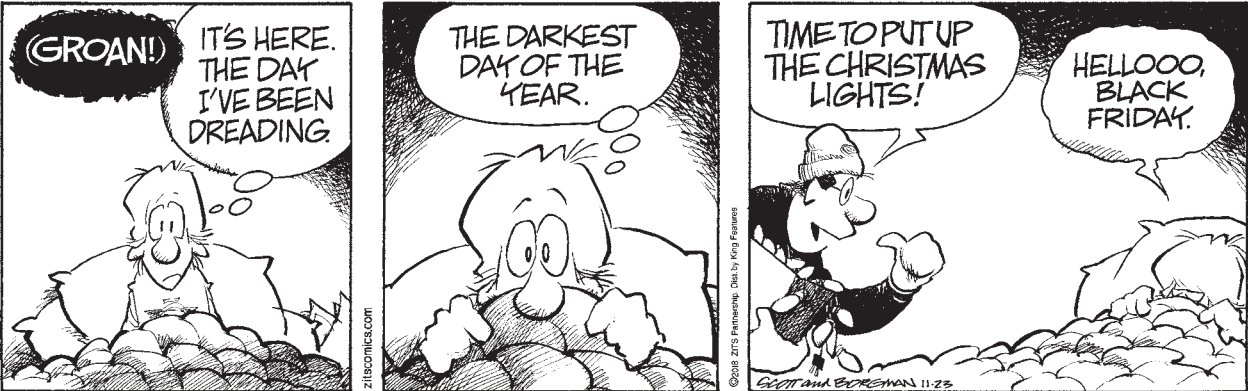
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

2								
		3			9			7
		5	2	6		3	8	
	8					9		
		1		8		4		
		9					3	
	5	7		3	4	2		
4			1			6		
							7	

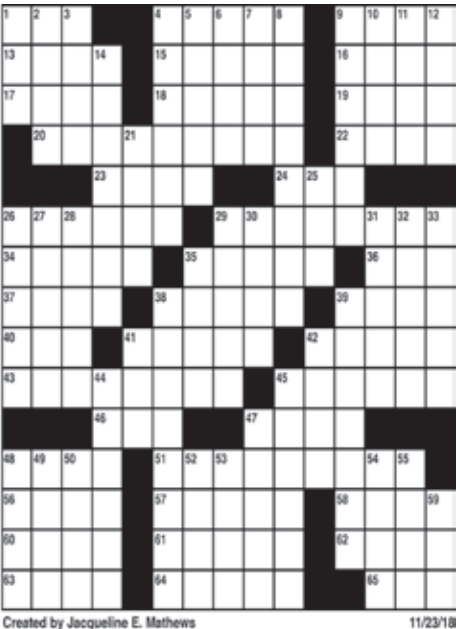
Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 11/23

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

2	7	3	6	4	1	9	8	5
1	8	6	5	9	2	4	7	3
9	5	4	7	8	3	2	1	6
5	3	2	9	7	8	1	6	4
4	6	7	1	3	5	8	2	9
8	1	9	2	6	4	5	3	7
7	4	1	3	2	9	6	5	8
3	9	5	8	1	6	7	4	2
6	2	8	4	5	7	3	9	1

- ACROSS
- 1 Evergreen tree
 - 4 Under
 - 9 Take a break
 - 13 Stumble
 - 15 Escape detection by
 - 16 ___ other; one another
 - 17 Airhead
 - 18 Judge's mallet
 - 19 German wife
 - 20 Poverty
 - 22 Traveler's stops
 - 23 Truck scale divisions
 - 24 Actor Linden
 - 26 Rx bottle wrappers
 - 29 Well-known
 - 34 Get up
 - 35 Stogie
 - 36 Actress McClanahan
 - 37 Pea casings
 - 38 Primp
 - 39 Wise man
 - 40 90 degrees from NNE
 - 41 Facial hair
 - 42 Destined
 - 43 Sluggishness
 - 45 Recluses
 - 46 Billboards
 - 47 Watermelon casing
 - 48 Singer Campbell
 - 51 Disrespecting
 - 56 Highway
 - 57 Charlotte, to Prince Harry
 - 58 Tide type
 - 60 Meanie
 - 61 Sanctuary table
 - 62 Festive event
 - 63 Water source
 - 64 Jumps
 - 65 Cartoon dog



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews 11/23/18

- DOWN
- 1 Floral wire service
 - 2 Press clothing
 - 3 Hitchhiker's hope
 - 4 Starts
 - 5 Roy Rogers and Dale ___
 - 6 Wash
 - 7 Some of Keats' works
 - 8 Cardiff resident
 - 9 Pharmacy request
 - 10 Be a breadwinner
 - 11 Read over quickly
 - 12 Consequently
 - 14 Dickinson or Teasdale
 - 21 Robert or Elizabeth
 - 25 Broadcast
 - 26 Place for a boutonniere
 - 27 ___ by any other name...
 - 28 European bathroom feature
 - 29 Passionate
 - 30 Elderly
 - 31 Up in arms
 - 32 Boring tool
 - 33 Rex and Donna
 - 35 Rugged cliff
 - 38 Intimate; private

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

PUMA	AGNEW	STAB
APES	DRAKE	TUBE
PODS	DEPENDABLE	
AND	RATS	EBSEN
	LLAMA	GAL
SKEINS	RENEWS	
ONSET	BLUES	ALS
PEON	CREEK	DRIP
HAM	BRAID	GAMMA
DECEIT	DETEST	
	LAB	NOMAD
ABHOR	KIDS	ONA
CLASSIFIED	OVEN	
TALE	DANCE	LEAN
SHOT	ODDER	ERRS

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- 39 Smoothing wood
- 41 ___ blood; ill will
- 42 Not ___ of; disliking
- 44 "Messiah" composer
- 45 Cruise ships
- 47 Summary
- 48 Expand
- 49 Theater section
- 50 James ___ Jones
- 52 Rank's partner, in phrase
- 53 Greek cheese
- 54 ___ miss; close call
- 55 Actress Storm
- 59 Skillet

Dead whale had 115 plastic cups, 2 flip-flops in its stomach

Associated Press

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)

— A dead whale that washed ashore in eastern Indonesia had a large lump of plastic waste in its stomach, including drinking cups and flip-flops, a park official said Tuesday, causing concern among environmentalists and government officials in one of the world's largest plastic polluting countries.

Rescuers from Wakatobi National Park found the rotting carcass of the 9.5-meter (31-foot) sperm whale late Monday near the park in Southeast Sulawesi province after receiving a report from environmentalists that villagers had surrounded the dead whale and were beginning to butcher the rotting carcass, park chief Heri Santoso said.

Santoso said researchers from wildlife conservation group WWF and the park's conservation academy found about 5.9 kilograms (13 pounds) of plastic waste in the animal's stomach containing 115 plastic cups, four plastic bottles, 25 plastic bags, 2 flip-flops, a nylon sack and more than 1,000 other assorted pieces of plastic.

"Although we have not been able to deduce the cause of death, the facts that we see are truly awful," said Dwi Suprpti, a marine species conservation coordinator at WWF Indonesia.

She said it was not possible to determine if the plastic had caused the whale's death because of the ani-



In this undated photo released by Akademi Komunitas Kelautan dan Perikanan Wakatobi (Wakatobi Marine and Fisheries Community Academy or AKKP Wakatobi), researchers collect data of the carcass of a beached whale at Wakatobi National Park in Southeast Sulawesi, Indonesia.

Associated Press

mal's advanced state of decay.

Indonesia, an archipelago of 260 million people, is the world's second-largest plastic polluter after China, according to a study published in the journal Science in January. It produces 3.2 million tons of mismanaged plastic waste a year, of which 1.29 million tons ends up in the ocean, the study said.

Luhut Binsar Pandjaitan, Indonesia's coordinating minister of maritime affairs, said the whale's discovery should raise public awareness about the need to reduce plastic use, and had spurred the government to take tougher measures to protect the ocean.

"I'm so sad to hear this,"

said Pandjaitan, who recently has campaigned for less use of plastic. "It is possible that many other marine animals are also contaminated with plastic waste and this is very dangerous for our lives."

He said the government is making efforts to reduce the use of plastic, including urging shops not to provide plastic bags for customers and teaching about the problem in schools nationwide to meet a government target of reducing plastic use by 70 percent by 2025.

"This big ambition can be achieved if people learn to understand that plastic waste is a common enemy," he told The Associated Press. □



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Experimental plane flies silently, may lead to quiet drones

By **MALCOLM RITTER**

AP Science Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — A nearly silent, drone-sized aircraft has shown it can fly, thanks to a scientist who was inspired by watching "Star Trek" as a child.

With neither propellers nor jets, the airplane gets its thrust by applying a strong electric field to the air. That general idea has been demonstrated at science fairs, but the new work shows it can power a free-flying airplane.

So can people look forward to traveling in planes that are almost silent and emit no air pollution?

"Not anytime soon," says Steven Barrett of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, who reported the results in a study released Wednesday by the journal Nature.

It's not clear whether the technology could work at such a large scale, he said in a telephone interview.

And even if it can, it would take a few decades to develop such planes, he said. Before that, the approach



In this Nov. 9, 2018, photo, Ian Fairweather, of Montana Resources, operates a drone that is specially designed to haze waterfowl that land on the Berkeley Pit, a former open pit copper mine in Butte, Mont.

Associated Press

might be used in airplane-like drones that perform tasks like environmental monitoring and surveil-

lance, he said. As drones become more common in urban skies, the lack of noise would be an advan-

tage in making them less bothersome to people on the ground, he said.

The Nature paper reports the results of 10 test flights inside an MIT athletic building. With a wingspan of about 16 feet (5 meters), the five-pound (2.45-kilogram) plane sailed along at about 11 mph (17 kph). Each flight covered about 60 yards (55 meters).

Barrett, 35, said he was inspired as a child by watching "Star Trek" television episodes and movies, where he was struck by the shuttles that flew with no moving parts in their propulsion systems. He recalled thinking, "There should be a way things should fly without having propellers and (jet) turbines."

As an adult, he focused on that and came across a concept called "ionic wind."

For the MIT airplane, that involves a series of thin wires at the front of the plane that generate a powerful electric field. The field strips electrons from air molecules, turning the molecules

into positively charged particles called ions. Those ions flow toward negatively charged parts of plane, colliding with ordinary air molecules and transferring energy to them. That produces a wind that provides thrust for the plane, Barrett explained.

A similar process has long been used in outer space to propel some spacecraft, he said.

Barrett said he hopes to find a way to eliminate the "very slight buzz" one can hear.

"I think they're onto something here," said Pat Anderson, a professor of aerospace engineering at the Daytona Beach, Florida, campus of Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. He had no role in the research. He called the results impressive. But the experimental aircraft lacks the range and endurance to serve as a useful drone, and it's not clear whether the technology could be scaled up to fix that or become useful for propelling a passenger plane, he said. □

Scientists wind up deep-water probes in Caribbean waters



This Nov. 1, 2018, photo provided by the U.S. National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration Office of Ocean Exploration and Research, shows a toadfish during dive 2 of the 2018 Oceano Profundo expedition, in the deep waters of the U.S. Caribbean.

Associated Press

By **DANICA COTO**

Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — A rarely seen shark embryo. Corals up to 7 feet (2 meters) high. Sponges with sharp edges.

These were among the hundreds of findings reported by U.S. scientists who have wrapped up a 22-day mission exploring waters around Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands in the deepest dives ever recorded in the region. Guided by other land-based scientists watching live feeds, they collected 89 samples and will now start to analyze them, Daniel Wagner, expedition coordinator with the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, told The Associated Press on Wednesday.

"When they tell you, 'I've never seen that before,' it's a good indication that it's a new species or something that's new to this region,"

he said. It will take several years for scientists to establish whether any new species were discovered, but in the meantime, they will ship all the coral branches, pieces of sponge, brittle starfish and rocks they collected to the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, Wagner said. Scientists aboard the 224-foot (68-meter) Okeanos Explorer also identified some 30 species of fish, including some in areas where previously they hadn't been spotted. These include commercially popular fish such as snappers and groupers, which were seen about 100 meters (330 feet) deeper than reported to exist.

"That's a great thing," Wagner said.

In addition, they mapped geological features up to 3 miles (5,000 meters) deep, covering an area close to 15,000 square kilometers

(5,800 square miles), he said.

The 19 dives performed by remotely operated vehicles over 145 hours were streamed live and drew a lot of online attention. One especially popular video was that of a catshark embryo attached to a coral branch some 800 feet deep near an uninhabited island off Puerto Rico's west coast. Overall, the ecosystems appeared healthy, although scientists also saw pieces of trash on a few dives and the occasional fishing line, he added.

"It's a sad thing, but a healthy reminder that our things go down to the deep sea," he said.

The sites explored were chosen from a list of 80 submitted by scientists worldwide, including the location of a 1918 earthquake that generated a tsunami, killing more than 100 people in Puerto Rico. □



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Dutch king visits renewed Anne Frank House museum

By MIKE CORDER

Associated Press

AMSTERDAM (AP) — Dutch King Willem-Alexander visited the Anne Frank House museum Thursday after a two-year reboot to give the building a new entrance hall, redesigned exhibition spaces and a new way of telling the story of the teenage Jewish diarist.

The aim of renewing the landmark museum was to "provide more information about the historical context and background of the story we represent, which is the story of Anne Frank," executive director Ronald Leopold said Wednesday night at a press preview of the renewed museum.

What hasn't changed is the museum's moving centerpiece: the Spartan secret annex, reached via a door concealed behind a bookcase, where Anne wrote her world-famous diary as she, her family and four other Jews hid for two years from Nazis during World War II until they were arrested and deported to concentration camps.



Dutch King Willem-Alexander looks at Anne Frank's diary displayed in the new Diary Room at the renovated Anne Frank House Museum in Amsterdam, Netherlands, Thursday, Nov. 22, 2018.

Associated Press

"Of course we did not change the hiding place itself — the annex — which is the most authentic place where Anne Frank was in hiding and where she wrote the diary," Leopold said. The museum believes that telling Anne's story remains relevant more than

60 years after she and her sister both perished in the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp after contracting typhus.

On Wednesday, the head of the European Jewish Congress, Moshe Kantor, warned at a conference in Vienna that "Jewish

communities in Europe are increasingly concerned about their security and pessimistic about their future." Leopold said the museum, which receives 1.2 million visitors annually, has an important role to play in combatting anti-Semitism. "We run a museum and we

know how powerful the influence of this museum is," he said. "A visit ... really has a huge impact on young people and encourages them to fight discrimination, anti-Semitism, racism in their own communities." The museum got a new entrance and changes to rooms including the darkened space that displays the iconic books that made up Anne's diary, which was published by her father after the war and went on to become a symbol of hope and resilience. The diary has been translated into more than 70 languages. The building housing the secret annex was turned into a museum in 1960. The museum, which remained open throughout the renovations, also has revamped the way it tells the story of the Frank family, and by extension the Nazi persecution of Jews.

"What we tried to do is ... use the family history as kind of a window onto a larger history," said Tom Brink, the museum's head of publications and presentations. □

Black singers have historic week on country music charts

By MESFIN FEKADU

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Jimmie Allen has made history as the first black artist to have his debut single reach No. 1 on country radio, and it happened on the same week Kane Brown, who is black and white, has the top country and pop album in the U.S.

Allen said he cried when he got the news his song, "Best Shot," hit the top spot on Billboard's country airplay chart, which tracks radio success. "First I screamed, like, 'Thank, God. Finally! Finally, man.' Then after that I'm filled with gratitude and motivated to work even harder," Allen said in an interview with The Associated Press on Wednesday morning. "I realized just because you get here doesn't mean you get to stay here, so I just try to wake up and be thankful every day. I'm not going to lie, I broke down



This combination photo shows country singers Kane Brown and Jimmie Allen at the 52nd annual CMA Awards in Nashville, Tenn.

Associated Press

and cried for like 20 minutes when I found out my song went No. 1 because I think about everything I sacri-

ficed." Allen co-wrote "Best Shot" and it appears on his debut album, "Mercury Lane," released last month.

Brown's sophomore album, "Experiment," debuted at No. 1 on Billboard's 200 albums and country albums

charts, respectively, this week. "It feels great to be able to be some sort of figure that younger kids that look like me can look up and say, 'You know what, Jimmie did it so maybe I can do it, too,'" he said. "It really helps motivate someone else that might want to do it to see more people who look like them in whatever career field they're in." The 32-year-old Allen — who moved from Delaware to Nashville at age 21 — said he's happy to diversify contemporary country music while also paying tribute to other black artists in the genre, from Charley Pride to Darius Rucker. Pride and Brown have had No. 1 country radio hits, but not with their debut songs. Rucker's first country single did hit the No. 1 spot, but his official debut song was with Hootie & the Blowfish, thus making Allen's recent feat historic. □

A delicious, vicious acting feast in 'The Favourite'

By **JAKE COYLE**
Associated Press

Yorgos Lanthimos' "The Favourite," a wicked blast of nasty fun, gleefully dispenses with the usual decorum of the period drama to free its powerhouse trio of actresses — Olivia Colman, Emma Stone and Rachel Weisz — in a deliciously performed romp through the wigs and corsets of 18th century British aristocracy. That the acting — and that includes the spectacular supporting player Nicolas Hoult, too, as Tory leader Robert Harley — should be such a feast in Lanthimos' latest is a surprise. His earlier films ("The Lobster," "The Killing of a Sacred Deer," "Dogtooth") were intentionally performed in a flat, emotionless manner that seldom rose above an awkward monotone. But the brisker "The Favourite" is, to a degree, a departure for Lanthimos who this time is working from a script by Deborah Davis and Tony McNamara instead of his usual collaborator, Efthimis Filippou. "The Favourite" is no less vicious



This image released by Fox Searchlight Films shows Olivia Colman in a scene from the film "The Favourite."

or pitiless than their previous films, nor does Lanthimos (surprise, surprise) find the customs of early 1700s English royals any less grotesque than the contemporary norms he's so savagely satirized before. Yet "The Favourite," a kind of "All About Eve" translated into a triangular power struggle in Queen Anne's court, is indeed a riot, albeit

a frigid and disquieting one. And it's not just because Lanthimos favors anachronism over historical accuracy. (Both modern-day slang and dance moves make cameos.) It's the pleasure of seeing three of the finest actresses weave between one another in ever more absurd acts of seduction and betrayal. In a rickety and crowded car-

riage, we arrive in Queen Anne's court with Abigail (Stone), a distant relative of the queen who, having been lost by her father in a game of cards, has slipped out of the nobility. She's desperate to restore her standing with a position in the royal household, and after initially being sent to scrub floors, the Duchess of Marlborough, Sarah

Churchill (Weisz), takes her on a chambermaid. Our glimpses of Abigail's so-called "diminished circumstances" (including more than one face-first pushes into the mud) are vivid enough to earn our sympathies and warrant her increasingly cold-blooded tactics for elevation. In one of many such transactional exchanges, Abigail allows a more high-born man into her chamber at night and asks if he's there to rape her or seduce her. "I'm a gentleman," he defensively protests. "Rape then," she matter-of-factly replies. Through cunning, blackmail and flattery, Abigail soon has the ear of Queen Anne (Colman), not to mention her bed, a newfound status at odds with the queen's previous confidante and lover, Sarah. Weisz's duchess is using her position with the queen to extend the war with France, and her methods of manipulation are far more aggressively controlling. But they are also more straightforward than Abigail's hollow appeasements. □

Associated Press

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SAT: 1:50 | 4:15 | 6:45 | 9:15 | 11:45
SUN: 1:50 | 4:15 | 6:45 | 9:15
MON-FRI: 6:15
SAT-SUN: 3:45 | 6:15

THE CRIMES OF GRINDWALD [PG-13]
EDDIE REDMAYNE | JOHNNY DEPP
ALL FORMATS WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
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FRI-SAT: 7:50 | 10:35
MON-FRI: 3:50 | 6:15 | 9:05
SAT-SUN: 2:25 | 6:15 | 9:05
MON-THU: 5:40 | 8:30
FRI: 5:40 | 8:30 | 11:20
SAT: 2:50 | 5:40 | 8:30 | 11:20
SUN: 2:50 | 5:40 | 8:30

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MARK WAHLBERG | ROSE BYRNE
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES [PG-13]
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FRI-SAT: 6:55 | 9:20 | 11:50

BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY
RAMI MALEK | LUCY BOYNTON
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES [PG-13]
MON-SUN: 9:00

WIDOWS [R]
VIOLETA DAVIS | LIAM NEESON
ALL FORMATS WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON-FRI: 5:10
SAT-SUN: 2:30 | 5:10

THE GRINCH
BENEDICT CUMBERBATCH | CAMERON SEELY
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES [PG]
MON-FRI: 4:50 | 6:55
SAT-SUN: 2:45 | 4:50 | 6:55

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On Netflix now, Frank Grillo is looking for a fight



This image released by Netflix shows actor and self-described fight enthusiast, Frank Grillo, right, in a scene from "FightWorld," a docu-series that follows Grillo as he goes globe-trotting to explore fighting styles and the cultures behind them.

Associated Press

By **GARY GERARD HAMILTON**
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Most travelers to new places usually aren't looking for a fight. Frank Grillo definitely is. "Fightworld," a new Netflix docu-series, follows Gril-

lo, an actor and self-described "fight enthusiast," as he goes globe-trotting to explore fighting styles and the cultures behind them. "I immerse myself in certain fight cultures" said Grillo. "And through the eyes of the fighters, we explore the

culture of that place in a very different way. It's very similar to what Anthony Bourdain did, but instead of food, it was fighters." Grillo travels to places such as Mexico, Thailand and Senegal, locations chosen based on his familiarity with those country's various fighting disciplines such as Muay Thai, wrestling and boxing. "I know these things well, so I could go there and immediately embed myself," he said. Grillo also visited Israel, where citizens are required to join the army since the country is surrounded by hostile nations. He asked the mayor of Jerusalem to define Israelis in one word. "He said 'fight' because that's in their in their DNA, that's in their blood." □

Tyler Hilton of 'One Tree Hill' balances music and acting

By MARK KENNEDY

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Tyler Hilton is an actor who is also a musician and he knows what you're probably thinking: Do we really need another actor who is also a musician?

"If it wasn't me and I heard someone's like, 'Oh you should check out this record, this guy's an actor,' I'd be like, 'Doesn't sound that cool,'" Hilton said. "I don't necessarily want to hear music from a guy who's an actor. Actors don't seem that interesting to me as a musician. And yet that's just the deal."

Hilton has managed to straddle the gap between professions since he burst onto the scene in 2005 at 19 playing Elvis in "Walk the Line" opposite Joaquin Phoenix and Reese Witherspoon. He later combined music and acting by joining the "One Tree Hill" cast for several seasons, starting in season two.

Both sides of Hilton's talents are available this winter. The music part is his new album "City on Fire" out in January and the acting part will be when he reconnects with some "One Tree Hill" stars for the Lifetime TV movie "The Christmas Contract," which comes out Thursday, his 35th birthday. The TV movie won't be a terrible stretch — he'll play a character named Tyler Hilton who shows up to



In this June 16, 2014 file photo, Tyler Hilton, poses at the premiere of the CBS series "Extant," in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

play a few songs, including "Don't Feel Like Christmas" and a dark, moody bluesy one from his new CD called "Get Down." The film is an original story that features series regulars Hilary Burton, Robert Buckley, Danneel Ackles and Antwon Tanner.

"One Tree Hill" ended up being the biggest thing that I've done," he said. "It's affected people in such a crazy way. And even though some of the other movies I've been in have won awards and been more prestigious, there's

something about that show that really got into the pop culture psyche."

He's also excited for fans to hear his new music, a more authentic sonic representation of what interests him, namely everything from bluegrass to flamenco. He spent a frustrating 10 years with Warner Bros. Records before charting his own course.

"I think they saw a tall guy with blue eyes and they kept trying to hammer me into like a pop direction. And I wanted to make everyone stoked," he said.

"I listen to this record now and I'm so happy. So many records I've done the past I listened to and I go, 'I mean if that's what we're all agreeing on, let's do it.' And this one? I would give this record as a Christmas gift."

It's an impressive album with varied song styles, including the searing rock of the title song, the romantic "When I See You, I See Home," and the country-ish "Overtime." He wrote it while filming two failed TV pilots. "All of a sudden this music is just coming out because I'm not think-

ing about it," he said.

A cool video for the CD's title track was made by someone very close to Hilton — his wife, the actress and director Megan Park. She calls him an "old soul" who has lately found freedom and is doing his best work.

"He's gone through such a transformation as a person in the last five years and I think he let go of a lot of preconceptions and labels put on him and the type of music he thought he had to put out," she said. "He's gotten back to the roots of why he got into music."

Hilton may have played a jerk on "One Tree Hill," but he's charming and self-deprecating in person. He grew up in a musical family adoring Robert Johnson and Muddy Waters but didn't look the part. "There's nothing bluesy about a 6-foot-4, lanky tall white guy from Palm Springs, California, the golf capital of the world," he jokes.

Funny stories seem to pour out of him, like the time he lived on Taylor Swift's houseboat in Nashville. "Whoever's in control is writing the strangest story for me imaginable," he said, laughing.

He ended up under one of Taylor's roofs after she reached out as a 15-year-old to say she was a fan and invited him to be in one of her videos. "She was automatically different right from the get go. I was like, 'This girl is a genius,'" he said. Years later, her family offered him a home when he moved to Nashville.

His big TV break came when it was suggested he go on "One Tree Hill" during its second season to sing a song and say a few lines. He quickly bonded with the young cast and stuck around until the show concluded in 2012.

New episodes of "One Tree Hill" may not be being made but the series has found new audiences on Netflix and then Hulu. The actors stay in touch: "It's like every year we have a reunion with people you went to college with."

Leaning Tower of Pisa continues long path towards vertical

Associated Press

ROME (AP) — The Leaning Tower of Pisa isn't leaning so much anymore.

After more than two decades of efforts to straighten it, engineers say the famed Tuscan bell tower has recovered four centimeters (1.57 inches) more and is in better structural health than predicted.

ANSA news agency quotes a consultant to the international committee monitoring the tilt, Nunziante Squeglia, as saying that while the progressive recovery of tilt is good news, the overall structural health of the tower is more important.

The 12th-century tower reopened to the public in 2001 after being closed for more than a decade to let workers reduce its slant. By using hundreds of tons of lead counterweights at the base and extracting soil from under the foundations, engineers initially shaved 17 inches off the lean. □



The Leaning Tower of Pisa (Torre di Pisa) is seen at right next to the medieval cathedral of Pisa, in Piazza dei Miracoli Square, in Pisa, Italy, Sunday, Jan. 2, 2012.

Associated Press

Time to get a watch? What to know about buying preowned

By **AMIR BIBAWY**

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Luxury watches have long been a symbol of the wealthy. That's changing thanks to a booming trade in pre-owned luxury watches, driven by a growing number of specialized retailers. Established luxury watchmakers and dealers are also getting into the trade. "Retailers seem to get much more excited about selling preowned than new because they can set the price," says Ariel Adams, founder of aBlogtoWatch, the foremost authority in watch blogs.

From a vintage 1930s Cartier Tank to a gently worn 2017 Rolex Sea-Dweller, there are deals to be had. Here's a guide on how to score one:

WHERE TO BUY

The luxury watch you have coveted for years might no longer be out of reach. But where to start looking? There are many dedicated online retailers like Swiss-WatchExpo and Second Time Around Watch Co. Traditional retailers like the iconic Tourneau chain also sell preowned watches in stores and online. Most established retailers offer pieces that have been serviced by watchmakers and tested for mechanical accuracy. To avoid knock-offs, check online reviews for the dealer.

Don't discount online outlets that are not just for watches. Overstock and eBay offer thousands of well-priced luxury watches. To get the lay of the land, start with industry websites like Hodinkee and aBlogtoWatch. There are also numerous YouTube video reviews and Instagram watch "geek" feeds.

WHAT TO BUY?

"The most important piece of information I tell people is: Buy a watch you want to wear," says Adams. "Now that sounds really obvious. But a lot of people, without really knowing, try to follow other people's advice. Watches are like clothing: Just because someone really likes their pair of jeans



In this May 24 2018, photo a watch is photographed at the headquarters of Govberg in Bala Cynwyd, Pa., suburban Philadelphia.

that doesn't mean it will look good on you."

Paul Boutros, head of Americas for auction house Phillips Watches, cautions against approaching the watch as an investment.

"Buy watches because you love them," he says. "As far as investment goes, it's best to invest in stocks or real estate."

HOW TO SCORE A DEAL

To figure out roughly how much you should pay, compare prices on online marketplaces like Germany-based Chrono24, where retailers and individuals list watches for sale. But watch collector Paul Bragan, a

senior partner at market research firm Wakefield Research, cautions shoppers to take those figures with a grain of salt. The list price is often not what a watch ends up selling for, Bragan says.

Once you have price points, zero in on a good-condition piece. Many online retailers offer "first-time buyer" discounts or incentives for returning customers. Most offer email newsletters that will alert you to upcoming holiday sales, and not just for Christmas. Tourneau and online platform Watchbox offer sales tied to other holidays such

as Independence Day and Labor Day.

Watchbox's innovative app even allows you to offer your own price as a starting point.

Have a watch you don't wear anymore? As with cars, figure out if you can trade it in for your dream piece.

CONSIDER THE "GREY MARKET"

If you really want a new piece, consider the so-called "grey market." Brand-authorized dealers often offload excess inventory onto third-party websites. Those sites, in turn, will offer discounts of roughly

a third on new and unworn pieces. But there's a catch: Those third-party sellers can't offer warranties against defects or mechanical failures.

"The grey market is just for that customer that wants a special big deal," says Steven Kaiser, founder of New York-based luxury industry consulting firm Kaiser Time. "You are always going to have that customer."

PAY ATTENTION TO THE FINE PRINT

There are details to consider beyond the sale price. How much of a warranty does the seller offer? Does it cover water damage? What's the return policy? Does it include a restocking fee? If you are on the hook for return shipping costs, that could be good chunk of cash if you need to insure the package.

DON'T FORGET INSURANCE

Many home insurance policies cover personal possessions but it's usually worth getting a separate "valuable item" policy for peace of mind. Many such supplemental policies cover theft or loss away outside the home.

WHAT ABOUT WOMEN'S WATCHES

"It's a man's game," says Watchbox founder Danny Govberg, who estimates that only 5 percent of pre-owned watches on the market are designed for women.

But that's good news for female watch enthusiasts. It usually means better deals for the smaller-dial Rolexes and Omegas.

TAKE CARE OF THE WATCH

Luxury watches are made to last decades, but they require care. Mechanical pieces need more care than those that run on batteries, known as quartz watches.

"You should make sure it's wound at least weekly and running at least weekly," says Susanna Woycitzky, watchmaker at Watchbox. She adds that you should also keep your watch away from magnets, including those on iPad covers, purses and money clips. □



This May 24, 2018, photo shows preowned watches on display at Govberg's flagship store in Philadelphia.

Associated Press